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THE TIMES

Conservation: Battle to preserve the countryside, page 14

Senor Suárez resigns as Prime Minister of Spain

eñor Adolfo Suárez, Prime Minister of Spain or the past four and a half years, resigned esterday in the face of growing opposition om right-wing factions within his own party. lis critics had alleged that his style of government had recently become increasingly indecisive.

Forced out by rebels in his own party

om Richard Wigg
adrid, Jan 29

Señor Adolfo Suárez, Spain's ime Minister for the past ur years and a half, resigned a Cabinet meeting this afternoon in the face of mounting position from within his own rty.

His resignation had earlier en tendered to King Juan arlos, who under the 1978 constitution will propose a successor to Parliament after party onsultations.

Señor Suárez, who is 48 and loted the country through the fficult transition period from e death of General Franco to arliamentary democracy, was day to have faced a conference of his party, the Centre emocrat Union (UCD) at which is opponents from the Christian Democrat and right-wing iberal factions had planned a allenge to his leadership.

The conference, only the cond in the history of the CD, which is a loose coalition forces Señor Suárez formed und his own personality and bsequently led to victory in o general elections in 1977 d 1979, was to have been held Majorca. But Señor Suárez stponed the conference because of a national air traffic ntrollers' work-to-rule.

It had been thought here, wever, that Senor Suárez had zed upon this industrial ion in order to postpone a ect confrontation with his rty critics.

These critics alleged that the ime Minister's once successful image had been badly damaged in the public eye because an indecisive and ineffective le of governing over the last o years. They also felt that e party, already without a jority in the Cortes (Parliament), would lose the next neral election, scheduled for 83, probably to the Socialist rty.

After a meeting of the UCD ational executive Señor Suárez lso resigned from the party residency. As his opponents n not muster a majority in the arliamentary party there was peculation this evening that ñor Leonolio Calvo Sotelo, he second Deputy Prime linister in charge of economic ffairs, would be a possible hoice as successor.

The first Deputy Prime linister is General Manuel utierrez Mallado and as a ilitary man has few political rospects.

Speaking to the Spanish eople on television tonight, ñor Suárez denounced what e called systematic personal tacks on figures in high ablic office, evidently referng to critics in his own party. He appealed to the nation to face the change of premiership calmly and in a spirit of loyalty to Spain's democratic institutions and to the crown.

Señor Suárez said that he was not feeling tired or unable to face future tasks.

"It might not appear comprehensible at first sight, but I believe it is what my country requires at this time. I am going because words do not appear sufficient and it is necessary to demonstrate, with acts, who we are and what we want", he said.

He denied his critics' charge that he had been determined to stay in power at all costs.

Señor Manuel Fraga Iribane, leader of the right-wing Popular Alliance, tonight proposed a coalition of "likeminded parties" to provide a strong governing majority with which to fight the next general election.

The constitution lays down that after consultations with the parliamentary parties the politician whom the King then chooses should present a majority in the lower house of the Cortes, which has 356 members.

The Suárez Government obtained its last vote of confidence amid growing difficulties, in September, when the 165 UCD MPs obtained the support of allied regional parties in the Basque country and Catalonia to beat the combined Socialist and Communist opposition by a total of 180 votes to 164.

A leading MP opposed to Señor Suárez said after the Prime Minister's resignation: "The UCD now has a chance of rejuvenation."

An official statement this evening said King Juan Carlos's scheduled three-day visit to the Basque country next week will not be interrupted. The government is to continue on a caretaker basis.

Señor Suárez speaking on television last night.

Thatcher call to widen US-Europe cooperation

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Increased cooperation "outside Europe" must figure prominently in United States-European thinking, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last night.

In a speech to the annual Pilgrims' dinner, emphasizing the need for the Atlantic alliance to become "still more purposeful and resolute", the Prime Minister did not expand on the future cooperation beyond Europe. But the recent examples she chose to give of European contributions, while mentioning their "trade, their aid, and their long experience" were, in the main, military.

The British were playing "a vital part" in the formation of the Zimbabwean Army. France had "responded to requests" from a number of African states; a euphemism for sending in troops. And Britain and France had joined with the United States Navy to ensure freedom of passage through the Straits of Hormuz.

In speaking of the West's overriding interest in "promoting a peaceful evolution in the Third World and in repulsing Soviet efforts to increase their influence", Mrs Thatcher came to the joint diplomatic effort in seeking "internationally recognized independence" for Namibia in which Britain, France and West Germany have joined the United States and Canada.

The speech, the first of three the Prime Minister is making over the next month to identify Britain's eagerness to help President Reagan revitalize the alliance, was noticeably tough and enthusiastic. "We need to say more clearly: 'We are with you'", she said to the Americans.

"Of course we remain ready to respond to evidence of a real Soviet interest in genuine detente. But at present I see none.

"President Reagan and his administration have understood the challenge and the need for leadership. They are responding. We in Europe must also show that we understand the challenge

Mrs Thatcher offered three steps to revitalization. The first was to stand by the United States. "Setbacks for them are setbacks for us", she said. "We must offer greater recognition of the extent of the American effort which guarantees our freedom".

Second, Europe must make sure it was doing all it could in its own defence.

Third, both the United States and Europe must ensure that policy coordination arrangements were "kept in perfect working order", not, she noted, as when Afghanistan was invaded.

That lesson must be heeded, especially when the West watched events in and around Poland with anxiety.

Mrs Thatcher also went out of her way to assure Americans that Britain's membership of the EEC could not, and would not, lessen Anglo-American friendship. Nor would closer cooperation within the EEC threaten the links between the United States and other Europeans.

"A stronger, more self-confident Europe pursuing more coherent policies will produce a greater area of stability for democracy".

The second and third speeches in the Prime Minister's "trilogy" will be delivered in Washington and New York during her American visit from February 25-28.

Reagan press conference, page 6
Photograph, page 16



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Children at the Westway gypsies' site in London over which protests are planned because of conditions there. Report, page 3.

Datsun British plant may get state to pay half its cost

By Peter Hill and
Edward Townsend

Nissan, Japan's second largest motor corporation, will decide early in June where to establish its planned £300m car manufacturing plant in Britain. It will eventually employ nearly 4,500 workers.

The company has begun a feasibility study which should be completed in four months. As foreshadowed in *The Times*, the Government announced yesterday that it endorsed Nissan's proposals.

The announcement of the venture was made by Mr Norman Tebbit, newly-appointed Minister of State for Industry, only days after final government approval was given to inject a further £990m into British Leyland over the next two years.

If, as seems almost certain, the Japanese company, which makes Datsun vehicles, goes ahead with its plans to locate the new facility in one of the assisted areas of Britain, it will qualify for government financial incentives of up to a half of the total cost.

Ministers, anxious to attract prestige foreign investment to alleviate the growing unemployment caused by the rundown in traditional manufacturing regions, see in the Nissan plan an injection of positive hope into the beleaguered British motor industry and its suppliers.

Nissan plans an 800-acre site, more than double the size of BL's Longbridge factory in Birmingham, which by 1986 could be producing 200,000 cars a year.

Competition for the location of the Japanese company's plant will be intense, with especially strong representations expected from South Wales, which has become the home for a number of British subsidiaries of Japanese companies.

Its closeness to port and other communication facilities and its proximity to the large steel plants of Port Talbot and Llanwern, which provide the strip steel for the motor industry, will be seen as enhancing the region's chances.

The effects will be much more widespread. The Nissan venture could help to safeguard up to 30,000 jobs in component-supplying companies.

Mr Masataka Okuma, executive vice-president of Nissan's export and overseas operations, said at a London press conference last night that initially British companies would be supplying 60 per cent of the value of materials and components, rising to 80 per cent by 1936.

Mr Tebbit's statement received a generally favourable reaction from MP's. That reaction was mirrored in large measure by Sir Bernard Scott, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

He said: "Whatever the detail of any proposed arrangement, its main objective must be to decrease imports and increase exports of both vehicles and components and thus safeguard employment.

"Provided some major requirements are met new investment is to be welcomed, particularly bearing in mind that were Britain to block such investment, it is highly likely that it could be made in another EEC country".

Sir Bernard, who next week will be meeting his society's Japanese counterparts in Lisbon to discuss informally the continuance of existing voluntary restraint by Japanese car manufacturers to Britain, said that

Continued on page 2, col 4

Ticker-tape welcome suffers from technology

From Michael Leapman
New York, Jan 29

New York's distinctive way of honouring national heroes is to have them drive up Broadway and then throw wastepaper all over them. Tomorrow more than 20 of the 52 former hostages in Iran will submit themselves to that bizarre custom.

Yet the ticker-tape parade, which evolved in the 1920s, is becoming harder and harder to stage, because of the influx of new technology in the financial district.

More than 100 miles of yellow and white tape has had to be ordered for the parade from a firm in Connecticut because it is now a rare commodity in commercial houses.

The old "tickers"—machines which would print stock prices and other financial news on rolls of paper—have been replaced by screen terminals on which the information is flashed. To hurl a video screen from the high windows of a skyscraper would be somewhat dangerous and extravagant.

In recent parades, office workers have thrown file cards, lavatory paper and confetti to make up for the shortage of ticker-tape. But the cards fall to the ground too fast and modern lavatory paper is too light. Connoisseurs of the parades like to see the tape drift down from the building at a steady but modest pace, before enveloping the convoy of motor cars. Ticker tape does this ideally.

Modern architecture is as unhelpful as modern technology. Many new office towers are completely airconditioned and their windows cannot be opened. Waving rolls of paper behind plate glass is not at all the same thing.

The first large ticker-tape parade was for Charles Lindbergh, the flying hero, in 1927. Since then there have been 35, their size gauged by the weight of the rubbish collected by the street cleaners afterwards.

By this measure the biggest was in 1945, celebrating the victory over Japan. This produced 5,438 tons of rubbish. Second was the one given for John Glenn, the astronaut, in 1961—with 3,474 tons.

When the New York Mets won the world series at baseball in 1969, they provoked 1,255 tons of rubbish, while the city's other baseball team, the Yankees, could muster only 135 tons in 1978—victims of the new technology.

The most recent ticker-tape parade was for the Pope in 1979. He inspired only 43 tons.

Not everyone here is enthusiastic about tomorrow's parade, which will run from the southern tip of Manhattan to City Hall. *The New York Times*, in a sniffy leading article yesterday, said the idea was "redundant" and that the former hostages should now be allowed to go home quietly with their families.

Yet nobody forced any of the heroes to accept the invitation of Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York, and more than 20 have done so. Apart from the parade, they are being given free lodging at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, free tickets to Broadway shows, free meals, and numerous gifts from local businessmen.

Moscow explains, page 6

Shadow Cabinet to seek reversal of leadership vote decision

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, told Labour backbenchers last night that the Shadow Cabinet was determined to fight to reverse the special conference decision which gave trade unions a 40 per cent stake in electing the leader.

In a prepared statement, Mr Foot said that the Shadow Cabinet believed that the decision should be changed. It had agreed that a resolution to this effect should be presented to a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party at an early date.

The discussions he had heard in the parliamentary party and among trade unionists indicated that the outcome was "not regarded as satisfactory for the future health of the party.

"I doubt whether the bulk of the trade unions want to have the large 40 per cent share which they have been accorded. Indeed the trade union vote, including those not cast last Saturday, reveal the possible truth of this claim. I doubt whether the bulk of constituency parties approve."

The outcome had been evidently and naturally objectionable to the parliamentary party and "it overturns the advice which we offered as a result of the votes cast at our parliamentary party meetings".

When he wound up the conference Mr Foot said he accepted the decision. He said then: "I accept that vote, and I hope the whole party without regard to the right, left or centre will accept the vote as well."

His latest statement was greeted without challenge and came at a time of desperation among many Labour backbenchers at the direction of the party, and of demands that there should be firmer leadership.
of demands that there should be firmer leadership.

His decision means that the wider franchise for the election of the leader and the proportion of votes allotted to the parliamentary party, the trade unions and the constituency parties, will be thrashed out again at the annual conference in October.

Shadow ministers are confident that there will be a reversal. Mr Foot stated: "I have not the slightest doubt that an attempt will be made at our autumn conference to alter the decision and, despite the fact that we would all wish to see those constitutional issues set aside to enable us to concentrate on other tasks, I think the bulk of the parliamentary party will welcome proposals to change the nature of the decision at the forthcoming conference".

His comment was being interpreted as directed at those hardliners, Mr Wedgwood Benn among them, who are thought to be pleased at the outcome of the special conference.

Mr Foot said that he was convinced that this was the right course in the interests not only of the parliamentary party itself but the party as a whole, "and our supreme objective of the years ahead—the removal of the Thatcher Government and victory for a new Labour Government".

It was the special conference decision which finally led Mr William Rodgers to resign from the Shadow Cabinet and for nine backbenchers to align themselves with the Council for Social Democracy, set up by the so-called "gang of four".

Mr Foot's statement followed a declaration earlier in the day by 150 Labour backbenchers, covering the political spectrum inside the parliamentary party, that they all disagreed with the formula adopted by the conference

The coming together of the left, right and centre inside the parliamentary party in their declaration had the support of Mr Foot and Mr Healey, the deputy leader.

It said that the formula which had been approved had "inherent flaws" which were demonstrated "by the manner in which it was arrived at, and it repudiates the expressed wishes of the leader of the party.

"All of us agree with Michael Foot that conference has made mistakes in the past and that such mistakes can be rectified. All of us agree that the decision at Wembley was such a mistake and should be rectified at the earliest opportunity".

Jackson hint, and search for Tory defectors, page 2

Ecuador and Peru in clash after oil find

Quito, Jan 29.—Ecuador was on a war footing today after incidents on its frontier with Peru in which each side accused the other of aggression. Both countries mobilized their troops.

Hospitals in Quito were evacuated to make room for wounded troops after clashes at the border post of Paquisha, in which two Peruvian helicopters are reported to have been shot down. Another border incident occurred last week.

The heightened tension was thought to be linked with the discovery of oil by both countries in Amazonian forest land.

Diplomatic sources here said that Ecuador had sent large reinforcements to its southern border where an armoured brigade equipped with French-produced AMX 13 tanks was already deployed.

The permanent council of the Organization of American States in Washington today called on Ecuador and Peru to accept the creation of a commission to investigate the border clashes.—Agence France-Presse and AP.

Peru's austerity, page 6

Redundancy und to get ash boost

y Paul Routledge
abour Editor

The unemployment crisis has ompted the Government to troduce emergency legislation forestall bankruptcy in the ation's redundancy payments nd.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of ate for Employment, will table Bill today to increase the orrowing limit of £40m to a m up to four times that figure finance redundancies.

Legislation has been preced over the past few months cope with the impact of risg unemployment and those easures have coincided with crisis in the fund.

On present patterns, the Govnment spends £20m a month finance redundancies. The gislation being tabled today visages continuation of comnsation payments to redunnt workers on a scale that ight cost the Government 50m a year.

A political dispute is expected er the scale of the Government's involvement in redunncy spending and the sudden ficit appearing in the fund. abour MPs last night were king how to reconcile the surus of £102m recorded by the nd last year with the likely ortfall of many millions of unds this year.

Three options were available the Government.

The first would involve an crease in employers' national surance contributions and the cond would mean a reduction the rebate payable to comnies responsible for paying dundancy payments.

The third would be to increase the fund's borrowing nit and that is the option that parently has been chosen.

96 men resume 'dirty' protest

Any remaining hopes of an early settlement of the H-block issue in Northern Ireland were destroyed when the 96 Republican prisoners in the Maze prison who smashed furniture in their cells on Tuesday resumed their "dirty" protest. They had been moved to unfurnished cells after their action on Tuesday. The Northern Ireland Office is waiting to see if the men will start a new hunger strike, as they apparently have threatened to do over conditions at the prison Page 2

Yamani call to West

The West will have to "correct the damage done so far" in the Middle East, Shaikh Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, said. The Saudis hoped that the West would "do what is needed in order to bring about a peaceful settlement in the area." he said Page 6

Airfix owes £15m

Airfix Industries, makers of Dinky Toys and Meccano, has collapsed owing £15m to bank creditors. A scheme for financial reconstruction was rejected by the 15 banks, led by the National Westminster, which is owed £8m. Receivers have been called in Page 17

Big cuts expected for higher education

Confidential Government plans for further limits on local authority spending on education over the next three years envisage big cuts in higher education in the maintained sector, but there will be little change in teacher numbers beyond those already planned Page 4

Mr Waring to retire

Mr Eddie Waring, the BBC rugby league commentator, is to retire. He began his television commentaries on the sport in 1951, on the international between Great Britain and New Zealand. Mr Waring is to continue as the BBC's rugby league adviser with priority in helping to find his successor Page 2

Sickness benefit: Commons committee and Mr Patrick Jenkin in clash over government proposals to transfer responsibility from national insurance to employers 3

France: Two men are sentenced to death for murder, bringing to six the number waiting to learn their fate 4

Travel in America: An eight-page Special Report describes places to see, things to do, ways to go

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 24, 26; Appointments, 24; Car buyers' guide, 24; Property, 11

Guerrilla bases in Lebanon raided by Israeli planes

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 29

Israeli aircraft attacked Palestinian guerrilla concentrations in southern Lebanon this afternoon in the first raid across the border since December 31 when Syrian fighter aircraft unexpectedly took to the air against the Israeli attackers.

In that case, two MiG 21 interceptors were shot down in air battles. The renewal of Israeli air strikes came after the shelling last night of Kiryat Shemona in Galilee where seven Israelis including four children were injured. Several buildings in that town and in Metullah were destroyed.

The shells, Katyusha rockets, came from the area of Nabatea and Israeli artillery responded early today.

The Nabatea area was hit in the air raid. Other targets included bases south of Sidon, east of Tyre and south of the Zaharani estuary.

Military sources said these were bases of El Fatah Palestinian guerrillas and of the pro-Iraqi Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Syrian interceptors did not appear today, but the Israeli raiders encountered some anti-aircraft artillery fire. All aircraft returned safely after scoring "accurate hits," it was officially stated.

Refugee camps: Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian refugee camps over a wide area of southern Lebanon today (Reuter reports from Sidon).

Residents said that at least 10 people were killed and many were wounded by successive bombing raids on Sidon. The first strike caused heavy damage to buildings to the south and south-east of the city.

Postal workers return to work after walkout

By John Roper

Agreement was reached late last night in the unofficial dispute which led to a walkout by more than 1,000 post office workers at London's main line stations.

They return to work at 6 am today but because of the backlog of millions of letters and parcels delays will continue for several days, the Post Office said last night. First-class mail delivery should be back to normal in the early part of next week and second-class mail by the end of the week.

The station worker, members of the Union of Communications Workers, walked out on Saturday in sympathy with four men who were suspended at Euston after a dispute about overtime. After talks with union representatives the Post Office said that the management was satisfied with the terms of the agreement and would pay overtime when the work load justified it.

Postal services in Manchester continue to be seriously disrupted. Hundreds of workers walked out of the city's letter sorting office in support of an unofficial strike by 900 parcel workers.

Mr Jackson hints that union voting at conference was invalid

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Unions which switched their block votes and acted contrary to the mandates given by their members at Labour's special conference at Wembley last Saturday had prejudiced the decision ultimately taken and the very democracy they claimed to represent, Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, has told the Labour Party.

In a letter to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, Mr Jackson said: "A leader or deputy leader elected in such a fashion would be discredited immediately on election.

"We need to know whether a decision taken in this way was in accordance with the constitution of the party, and whether such a decision should stand."

Mr Jackson's letter implies that the process of the eliminating ballot and the strategic and tactical voting of the unions was unconstitutional and therefore invalid.

He has taken the lead in a controversy which had already begun among MPs who believe the conference decision did not represent the views of party or union membership.

Mr Jackson said that clarification from the national executive was essential. His first complaint was about the method of voting. "As I understand the constitution, voting should be by card vote", he wrote.

"This has always been the case in the past and the normal way has been for or against any proposal. The eliminating ballot method does not seem to have been used before and this was therefore a departure from previous practice. In these circumstances, is the procedure a valid one?"

That type of voting, he said, could be a precedent for elections of the leader and deputy leader when there were more than two candidates.

"If this happens", Mr Jackson said, "then strategic voting or tactical voting would become the order of the day, and with so many votes being in the hands of so few people, the whole process could become a farce, thus destroying the validity of the voting procedure in the eyes of the electorate and damaging the party".

He assumed that on Saturday all delegates were mandated in some way and yet it was clear that some votes were switched from proposal to proposal before the propositions which delegates were due to support had been defeated.

"Our union voted consistently for the proposal which had a two-to-one majority in the ballot of our union's branches", he said. "We could, however, had we become involved in strategic voting, have altered the final result."

Other union delegations did not appear to have voted by their mandate. "The question posed by such voting is whether such people acted in a democratic fashion", Mr Jackson wrote. "In our opinion they did not."

"Finally", he said, "we want to know about the trade union vote. Each union knows how many people pay the political levy and yet we know that some unions affiliate on more than their levy-paying membership. This is simply buying votes and buying influence.

The man in a league of his own is to retire

By John Groser

Sports supporters of every persuasion (though some may feel that rugby league and It's a Knockout are not far removed) will be saddened to hear that Mr Eddie Waring, godfather of the oval ball, has decided to take an early bath.

The BBC announced last evening that this is to be Mr Waring's last season as a television commentator on rugby league matches. He first burst on to the televisual conscience of the British public in 1951, when he commented on the international between Great Britain and New Zealand.

In the three decades since that first, breathless broadcast, Mr Waring has kept viewers on the edges of their seats no fewer than 40 times a season. There are no accurate records for the number of "oop and oonders" he has described.

Born in Dewsbury, a short penalty away from the local rugby league club, Mr Waring joined the local newspaper as a sports reporter. During the last war, while still in his twenties, he became manager of the Dewsbury club, which was at that time bottom of the local league.

By the amazing device of signing up rugby league internationals who happened to be posted on military duty to Yorkshire, Mr Waring transformed the fortunes of Dewsbury, who won almost every honour in the game within a couple of seasons.

Colleagues were surprised yesterday to learn of Mr Waring's impending retirement, for he recently signed a new contract with the BBC. He explained last night: "After nearly 30 years of doing commentaries, I think I should let someone else climb those step ladders to the commentary points".

Announcing that Mr Waring will continue as the BBC's rugby league adviser, with the priority of helping to find his successor, Mr Alan Hart, head of BBC sport, said yesterday: "I know how much Eddie will be missed through the country because he has done more than anyone to develop the popularity of the sport he loves". Mr Waring will continue with *It's a Knockout.*

The BBC's exclusive contract to present rugby league matches on television expired at the start of this season. Commercial stations in northern England now hold franchises to screen league matches.



Eddie Waring: "Mr Rugby League" to thousands of viewers.

As Japanese car-makers prepare to move in, MPs and workers pick their favoured sites

Dismay from Mr Orme, special pleading from colleagues

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Japanese, foreigners and the European Economic Community are words that appear to have the same effect on Mr Stanley Orme, spokesman on industry for her Majesty's loyal Opposition, as the waving of a red rag at an already enraged bull.

So it was to be expected that all other considerations would be relegated when Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry, announced to the Commons yesterday that Japan's Nissan Motor Company would like to establish a substantial car manufacturing operation in the United Kingdom and that the proposal met with the government's approval.

Now Mr Orme is a splendid fellow and an excellent choice as MP for Salford, West, but many of his colleagues were somewhat startled when he turned up as Mr Michael Foot's choice to speak for the party on industry.

Clearly misjudging the views of many Labour MPs he launched himself at the minister like a Trident missile that has gone berserk. Government policy was in confusion; there was dismay at British Leyland, and was Japan trying to avoid import controls? Mr Orme asked.

But it was soon brought home to him that his colleagues on the back benches were far more interested in the effect of the new factory on jobs. From all over the Labour benches came special pleadings urging the Japanese to place their factory in all sorts of outlandish places.

Bitingly, Mr Tebbit pointed out that clearly, vehicles built in Britain would not be subject to import controls.

To a Welsh MP who was extolling the virtues of Swansea as a suitable site for the new project, Mr Tebbit remarked that he imagined one town which would not be considered would be Salford. Instant shock, horror and indignation raced through the Labour benches and there was a brotherly rally in aid of the wounded champion.

Mr Michael English, always a stickler for parliamentary propriety, was the first to tell the Speaker that he had detected the minister attempting to look intimidated.

The Speaker pointed out that the matter was not a point of order but of disagreement, and he would hear no more on it. "You are not a dictator, you know. You are a chairman" Mr Robert Cryer shouted from the Labour benches below the gangway.

As MPs spluttered and blustered, the Speaker rose slowly to his feet and instead of calling on a thunderbolt to shatter Mr Cryer, he called on Mr Joel Barnett, the jovial MP for Heywood and Royton, to open a debate on reports of the public accounts committee.

Parliamentary report, page

Venture may safeguard 30,000 jobs

Continued from page 1

the Nissan project would in no way be allowed to harm the forthcoming talks.

Speaking at a press conference after the announcement, Mr Tebbit said that he would hope that the project would lead to Britain importing less than the 860,000 cars it did last year and that the Nissan activity would have beneficial effects on the performance of other manufacturers and suppliers.

Nissan's plan is expected to meet with board approval from the EEC Commission, although officials will want to give close attention to the details of the scheme and the level of finance involved.

The scale of the proposed operation could provoke hostility among other Community car-makers, particularly the French, whose motor industry has so far resisted collaborative ventures with Japanese companies and could lose ground in export markets.

In a joint statement yesterday the French manufacturers said that they would not object to Nissan's plan, provided more than half the value of the parts was made in Europe.

Motor industry union leaders warmly welcomed the plan and Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that the proposed project "does nail the lie that the industrial relations scene in Britain is such that we cannot attract investment."

MR OKUMA

Photograph by David Jones

Mr Majataka Okuma, Nissan's executive vice-president, overseas operations, at a press conference yesterday.

Discussions have been taking place at high level for nearly a year and Lord Trenchard, the former Minister of State, Department of Industry, is credited with having played a crucial role in encouraging Nissan to proceed.

Site construction employing at least 1,000 workers would start almost immediately after the site has been identified for the manufacturing facility.

Leading article, page 15; When Datsun drives in and Business Diary, page 19

Industrialists and unions say Datsun would be welcome in Wales

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

With one in seven adults unemployed in Wales, leaders of industry and trade unions were hoping yesterday that the Datsun factory, with its promise of between 3,000 and 5,000 jobs, would come to the principality.

There has been intense pressure to interest Japanese manufacturing industry in the area. Unions and employers can point to the excellent industrial relations enjoyed by such companies as Sony and Panasonic, which are established and expanding in South Wales.

Most of the important Japanese manufacturing companies in Britain have plants in Wales.

Eighteen months ago senior executives of the Mitsubishi Corporation visited South Glamorgan and were considering the possibility of establishing a lorry factory at the Wentloog Flats, an undeveloped site between Cardiff and Newpora.

That stretch of flat, marshy land appears to be one of the few sites in the region that could accommodate a plant capable of producing up to 200,000 cars a year. Two other possible sites are Morriston, Swansea, and Britton Ferry, a few miles from the Port Talbot steel works in West Glamorgan.

The Britton Ferry site once accommodated the Du Pont steel works, which has been demolished to pave the way for industrial development. Apart from its proximity to a big source of steel, the site is also equipped with a deep sea jetty.

Another possible South Wales site is at Newport, close to the Llanwern British Steel plant.

But Deeside, which has the worst unemployment rate in Wales, will be pressing the claim of the 1,000-acre Wrexham industrial estate, which is only partly developed.

Mr Merion Lewis, chief executive of the Development Corporation for Wales, said yesterday that his organization had been in discussions with Nissan for several months, and a delegation from Wales had met the company's senior executives last December in Japan.

Mr Lewis said: "I am confident that after Nissan have conducted their surveys, South Wales will be on their short list. The relationship in Wales with Japanese companies is extremely good."

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC said: "*I am delighted to learn* of this possible investment in Britain and hope that Nissan will decide on Wales. We would certainly prefer the cars to be built here rather than be imported."

Murray welcome: Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, last night welcomed the prospect of Nissan setting up a plant in Britain with government help. (Our Northampton Correspondent writes.)

He said in Wellingborough: "Any project, whether it is from Japan or Germany, or any other country, which establishes manufacturing in Britain ought to be welcomed because it provides jobs".

Search for 'defecting Tory 20'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The search for the defecting "Tory Twenty" was on at Westminster yesterday after Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Bodmin, said on BBC 2's *Newsnight* programme that up to twenty Tory MPs might join a new centre party.

Admittedly, the search was light-hearted. A report that whips had been ordered on to the scene by Mrs Margaret Thatcher was derided in quarters frequented by the party's business managers; they already knew Mr Hicks was on the Tory liberal side, and had more than twenty names of other Conservatives dissatisfied with government policy.

Among disaffected Conservative "wets" there are at least two views. One is that they have already won, that Mrs Thatcher has changed course but will not say so; the other is dark gloom, perceiving real trouble ahead, which is close to Mr Hicks's view.

Mr Hicks, a former government assistant whip, who lost his seat to a Liberal in the February, 1974, election, yesterday played down the idea of joining a centre party. But, interviewed on London Broadcasting Company's AM programme he made clear that he appreciated the strength of the emerging centre force.

Conservative Central Office went to the lengths of putting out his interview remarks, which included the following "It is simply that for the first time since I entered politics there seems to be a manifestation of the centre developing which might represent the kind of views which I personally possess and which might coincide with the views of the majority of the British electorate..."

He added: "But I still think the Conservative Party can get back to the centre and adopt a strategy which recognizes that middle ground".

Owners say 84 crews willing to sail

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Shipping employers asserted yesterday that nearly half of the ships held up in ports in Britain and abroad by the seaman's dispute would willingly work normally, but for union influence.

Challenging the 26,000-member union to ballot ratings on the 12 per cent offer rejected by their negotiators, the General Council of British Shipping said it had received reports from member companies, or directly from masters, that the crews of 84 ships had been ready to sail without disruption.

In the latest development in a war of words between the two sides the general council sent a fresh message to 1,200 ships owned by its member companies saying that more than 30 British vessels had been sold, scrapped, or transferred to a foreign flag since the dispute began.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, dismissed allegations that members had been subjected to intimidation by union officials.

Sailings halted: Passenger ferry sailings run by Townsend Thoresen between Felixstowe and Zeebrugge will be halted for 48 hours this weekend (Our Ipswich Correspondent writes). All sailings from midnight tonight will be cancelled.

British Rail hopeful of more electrification

By Our Labour Staff

British Rail and leaders of the industry's unions are hopeful that the Government will soon announce a commitment to expanding electrification of the railway network.

The Department of Transport and the British Railways Board are to publish next week a joint report which is expected to underline the potential financial return of expanding electrification, at present covering 21 per cent of the 11,000-mile network.

The report is thought to envisage an eventual increase to about 50 per cent, which would mean electrifying Inter-City lines from London to Edinburgh, Sheffield and Bristol and the south west.

At a meeting with Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, and leaders of the three unions Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, said last night that "no instant decisions" could be expected on railway investment.

Both sides of the industry, however, are taking comfort after last night's meeting, the first tri-partite one of its kind, from an indication that Mr Fowler might be prepared to hold similar talks again in late February or March.

Union leaders, who appear reluctantly to have accepted that there will be no further increase in the 1981-82 external financing limit for BR of £920m, argue that a commitment on electrification would be a factor that would encourage them to accelerate planned efficiency measures BR is seeking.

Sir Peter said last night that the £920m limit was fixed and agreed.

Maze men resume 'dirty' protest over jail clothes

From Craig Seton
Belfast

The 96 republican prisoners who smashed cells at the Maze prison, near Belfast, on Tuesday, yesterday resumed their "dirty" protest, smearing their cells walls with excrement.

The development, which destroyed any remaining hopes of an imminent settlement of the H-block issue, came as no surprise to the Northern Ireland Office, which is now waiting to see if the men will carry out threats to start a new hunger strike over what they claim is intransigence by the Government in improving conditions and issuing personal clothing.

Two weeks ago the 96 gave up their dirty protest and were moved to clean, furnished cells in the first tangible progress towards a solution of the H-block issue. But it quickly faltered when 20 of them were denied permission to wear leisure clothing brought in by relatives at the weekend.

Their action now means that there are 417 republicans continuing the dirty protest and wearing only blankets, because they refuse to wear prison clothing.

Mr Richard McCauley, a spokesman for the H-block committee in Belfast, spoke of the frustration of the men at delays in implementing improved conditions. "A new hunger strike is still a strong possibility".

Bomb in shop: A bomb exploded at a Belfast furniture store yesterday, starting a fierce fire, but police said that there were no casualties (the Press Association reports).

Spending criticism: Government ministers in Northern Ireland were criticized yesterday by the Northern Ireland Economic Council for giving what was claimed to be a misleading impression about the level of public spending in the province compared with the rest of Britain.

Pay claim battle pledge by civil servants

A moderate civil service union last night promised Mrs Margaret Thatcher "one hell of a battle" over the 6 per cent pay limit, and added: "If it brings down the Government, so be it". The warning came from a delegate conference of the Civil and Public Services Association, which wants a pay rise of at least 15 per cent.

A campaign of industrial action, including selective one day strikes, will be launched as part of its pay battle.

The association, which is the biggest Civil Service union agreed to pledge the support of its 180,000 members to the Council of Civil Service Unions.

Mrs Marion James, vice chairman of the Department of Employment base at Watford and a well-known moderate showed the depth of feeling. They were determined to conduct an effective and successful strike, "and if this brings down the Government so be it", she said.

Reduced services for disabled attacked

By John Witherow

The Manpower Services Commission was described by MPs yesterday as insensitive for cutting services to the disabled during the International Year of Disabled People.

The Commons employment committee, which issued a report on the commission's corporate plan for 1981-85, said 120 staff helping the disabled to find work would lose their jobs this year.

"The committee was astonished and shocked that the MSC had got its priorities so badly wrong." Mr John Gorst, Conservative MP for *Barnet*, Hendon, North, told a press conference. "It shows a lack of feeling and an astonishing insensitivity, especially this year."

The staff cuts will be made in a department responsible for helping about 160,000 unemployed disabled people.

The commission expects unemployment to rise to a maximum of 2.7 million by next year, but Mr Gorst said it should assume that the number of jobless could rise to 3.5 million.

The commission, which has a staff of more than 24,000 and a budget of £845m for next year, had been told to make savings of £160m this year and cut more than 5,000 jobs by 1984.

NHS dilemma on pay referred to the minister

By Nicholas Timmins

After leaders of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers rejected a 6 per cent pay offer yesterday the National Health Service employers said that they would refer the dilemma of finding a settlement back to the Government.

The two sides of the ancillary workers' council agreed to seek an early meeting with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, to discover what the cash limit for the health services is to be. Negotiations have been postponed once because the limit had not been announced.

Yesterday the management side were authorized by the Department of Health and Social Security to make an offer of 6 per cent, which implies that a 6 per cent cash limit for pay rises is intended.

Mr Frank Pethybridge, chairman of the management side, said they needed to know the cash limit. "We are going to the Secretary of State to tell him there is a problem."

Isle of Man to issue a £5 coin in precious metal

By a Staff Reporter

The Isle of Man has gone one better than the British mainland in the race to introduce high value coins to keep pace with inflation. It is to mint a £5 coin, the "golden fiver".

The announcement, by Pobjoy Mint, of Sutton, Surrey, comes after the news that Britain is to follow the Isle of Man by issuing a round £1 coin, probably in 1983. The Isle of Man's will be the world's first decimal £5 coin and the reasons for its introduction, Pobjoy says, is that people want coins of higher value and durability.

The new fiver is being struck in golden-hued virenium, the man-made precious metal.

£5 stamp: Guernsey's Post Office is to introduce the island's first £5 stamp on May 22 (our St Peter Port Correspondent writes).

Papers 'used for critical article'

By Frances Gibb

Lawyers might escape a breach of the law of contempt if they showed journalists documents to assist a fair, accurate, and contemporaneous report of judicial proceedings, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Mr Simon Brown, counsel for the Home Office, said that although documents obtained by the legal process of discovery and read out in open court should be used only for the purposes of that action, that use could be extended to cover bona fide attempts to assist those involved in producing such reports.

Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, had not assisted such a report, he said. The article which appeared in *The Guardian*, based on documents she made available after they were read out in court, was something quite different.

Mr Brown was appearing before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn, in an appeal by Miss Harman against a judgment in November, on a case brought by the Home Office, that she committed a serious contempt of court.

In that case Mr Justice Park found that Miss Harman broke the law when she made available to a journalist documents released to her by the Home Office under discovery

The documents then formed the basis of an article highly critical of the way Home Office policy on prisons had been formulated.

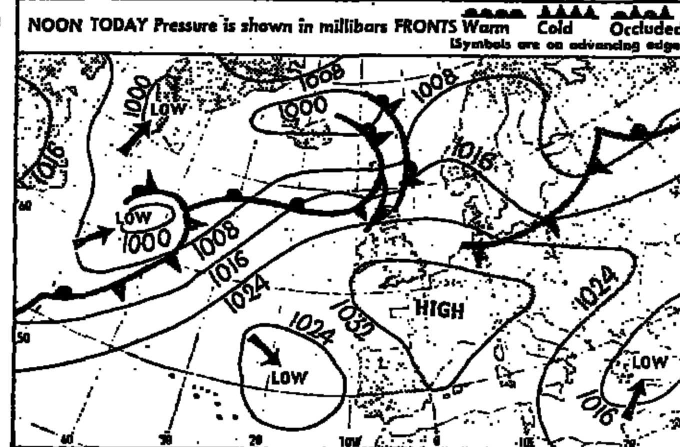
Mr Leolin Price, QC, for Miss Harman, said: "Once you start to distinguish between the person to whom documents may be shown you get into the impossible, impracticable position of having to inquire both as to the character of the person and as to their object".

It would be absurd, he continued, to have two categories of persons: law reporters and others who could see documents, when anyone could enter the court and make a full shorthand note or pay for a transcript.

Lord Denning agreed it was difficult to draw a distinction between kinds of reporter. But the definition proposed by Mr Brown of a fair, accurate and contemporaneous report of judicial proceedings was one that was well known and embodied in the laws of libel and defamation.

The appeal was adjourned.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY

b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 7.42 am Sun sets: 4.46 pm
Moon rises: 2.47 am Moon sets: 12.14 pm
New Moon: February 4.

Lighting up: 5.16 pm to 7.11 am.

High water: London Bridge, 8.49 am, 5.5m; 9.22 pm, 5.7m. Avonmouth, 1.23 am, 9.4m; 1.54 pm, 9.5m. Dover, 6.12 am, 5.2m; 7.06 pm, 5.1m. Hull, 12.57 am, 5.8m; 1.42 pm, 5.7m. Liverpool, 6.23 am, 7.1m; 6.52 pm, 7.1m.
1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

A ridge of high pressure will be maintained over S Britain. Frontal troughs will affect Scotland.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, SW, Central S England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Mist and fog patches slowly clearing to give sunny intervals, dry; wind mostly S, light; max temp 7° to 10°C (45° to 50°F).

East Anglia, Midlands, E, NW, Central N England: Mostly overcast and misty with some fog and drizzle slow to clear but sunny intervals developing in places; wind variable, light; max temp 6° to 8°C (43° to 46°F).

N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: Rather cloudy, some mist and fog clearing during morning; wind SW, light; max temp 8° to 9°C (46° to 48°F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, mostly dry; wind SW to W, light to moderate; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times; wind SW to W, fresh, occasionally strong; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Changeable in N with rain or drizzle at times, dry in S with sunny intervals but also mist and fog patches; generally mild.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind W to SW, light; sea smooth.

English Channel (E): Wind SE, light; sea smooth.

St George's Channel: Wind S to SW, light to moderate; sea slight.

Irish Sea: Wind S to SW, moderate to fresh; sea slight to moderate.

Yesterday

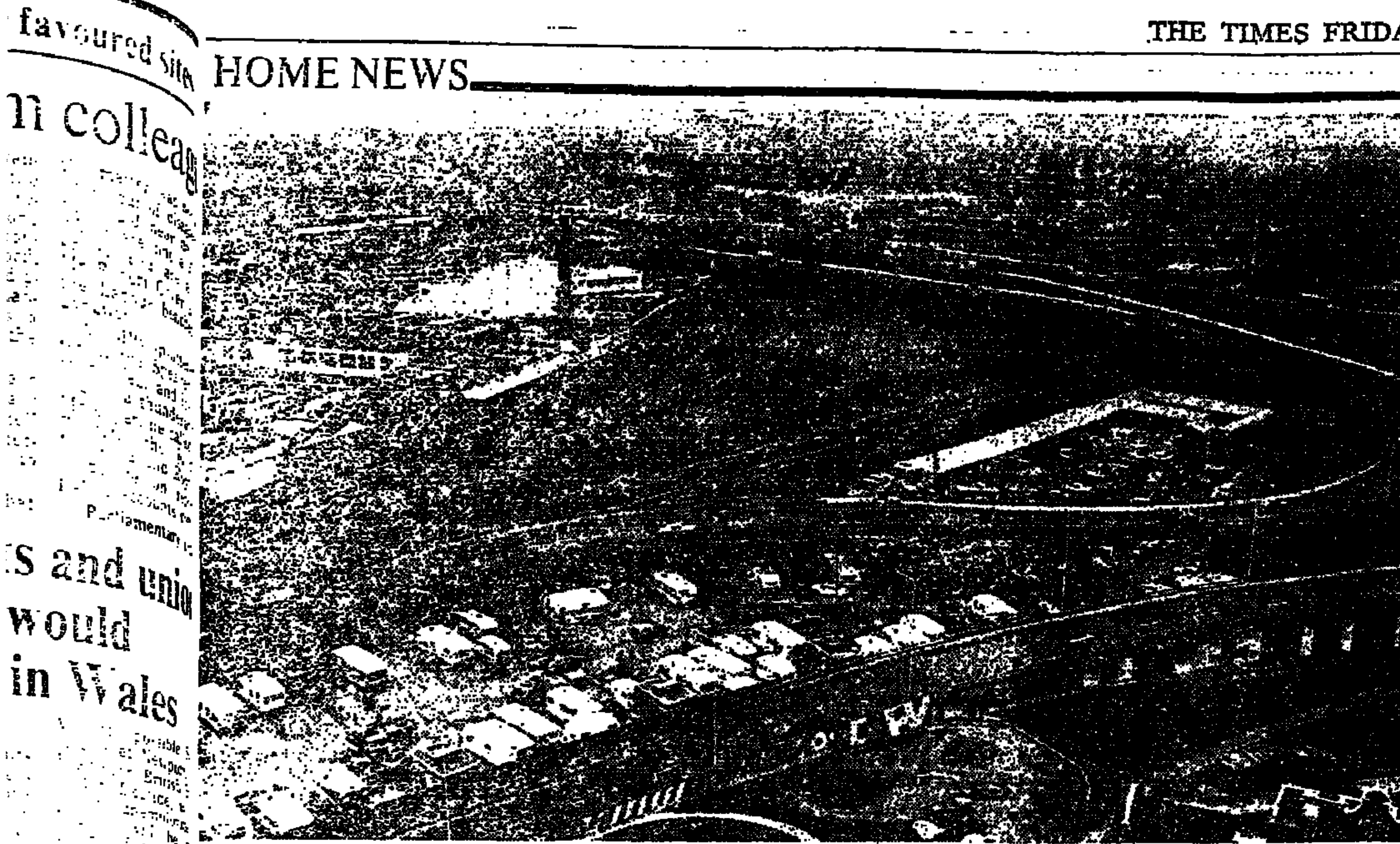
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm 8°C (46°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 6°C (43°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 79 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm 0.5hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm 1,034.9 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; s, sun; th, thunder.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	th	10	50	Brussels	c	5	41	Jersey	s	7	45	New York	c	3	37
Algiers	c	16	60	Budapest	f	3	37	L Palmas	s	19	66	Nice	s	11	52
Amstrdm	c	6	43	Cologne	s	2	36	Lisbon	s	13	55	Paris	s	3	37
Athens	f	7	45	Copenhgn	d	2	36	Locarno	s	3	39	Rome	s	8	46
Barcelona	c	9	48	Edinburgh	c	9	48	London	d	7	45	S Frncsco	r	2	36
Beirut	s	17	63	Florence	s	10	50	Luxembrg	s	1	34	Stockholm	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	s	8	46	Funchal	s	18	64	Madrid	f	7	45	Tel Aviv	s	16	61
Bermuda	s	19	66	Geneva	s	-1	30	Majorca	c	12	54	Toronto	s	-8	18
Berlin	c	3	37	Gibraltar	c	13	55	Malaga	r	10	50	Vancouver	r	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	s	15	59	Guernsey	s	8	46	Malta	f	10	50	Venice	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Birmnghm	c	6	43	Helsinki	s	1	34	Miami	s	24	75	Vienna	s	6	[illegible]
Bristol	c	7	45	Innsbruck	s	-7	19	Munich	c	-8	18	Warsaw	c	-1	30
Chicago	s	-4	25	Istanbul	f	6	43	Naples	c	6	43	Zurich	c	-4	25

Overseas selling prices

Australia $3; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B Frs 35; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 450 mils; Denmark Dkr 5.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 3.50; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.400; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 40; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 10; Portugal Esc 40; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 5.50; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 7.50; Tunisia Din 450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.



Flyovers of the two motorway access roads sweep round the caravans of the Westway gypsies' site. Photograph by Harry Kerr

Caravans nestle between motorway access roads and rubbish tip

Health challenge over Westway gypsies' camp

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mrs Margaret Jones pointed through the window of her small, sprucely kept caravan yesterday to the spot where last November a lorry plummeted 40ft from the motorway access road overhead, demolishing a wall, killing its driver and narrowly missing her two nieces, aged eight and twelve.

"They were this far away from it", she said, holding her hands a foot apart. "They thought it was a bit of a giggle at first but they stopped laughing when they saw the driver carried away."

To Mrs Jones and fellow residents on the Westway gypsies' site, in North Kensington, London, the accident served as a final and damning illustration of the dangers to which they are exposed. The site, she says with a touch of solecism, is "unfit for human consumption".

Later this year that opinion is expected to be tested by two legal actions brought on the residents' behalf by staff at the North Kensington law centre. Both are being see as providing important precedents for councils' siting and management of gypsy sites.

Staff at the centre plan to prosecute Hammersmith council which runs the site jointly with Kensington and Chelsea council, on public health grounds. They will ask the Department of the Environment to instruct the councils to take action but failing that, they intend to launch what is believed to be the first action in the High Court to force the councils to discharge their statutory duties under the Caravan Sites Act, 1968.

Among matters such an action is likely to clarify is the definition of an adequate site. There is widespread resentment among Britain's estimated 9,000 gypsy families about the location of sites "next to graveyards, rubbish-tips and sewage farms", in the words of Mr James Mercer, one of two British representatives on the international Romany Committee.

The Westway site is described by Mr Mercer as among the worst he has seen. It is sandwiched between two raised motorway access roads and bordered by a car-breakers' yard, an illegal rubbish-tip and a railway line, used by about 10 trains an hour during the day.

Tests have revealed blood-lead levels in children on the site of as much as twice the normal and increasing with length of stay. There is "usually heavy" lead contamination in camp site dust, according to standards used by the Greater London Council.

Noise levels would qualify residents for double-glazing if they were council tenants, law centre staff say.

Residents also complain that rats regularly block drains and that council rubbish removal services are inadequate. Hammersmith council, while admitting that the site is far from ideal, blames a minority of the travellers for illegal tipping and says that the £40,000 annual cost of administering the site and the time taken is "*absolutely disproportionate*" to the numbers involved.

It is estimated that about three-quarters of Britain's gypsy families could not be accommodated in existing designated sites. Asked why she does not leave, Mrs Jones, a widow with 19 grandchildren, replies: "There is no room anywhere else".

Select committee and minister clash on sick pay proposals

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to transfer responsibility for sick pay from national insurance to employers were pronounced seriously defective yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Social Services. Their report brought an immediate comdemnation from Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The committee made it clear yesterday, both in their report and at a press conference in the Commons, that their doubts about the proposals, on which a Bill is imminent, were based on the details of the scheme rather than the basic principles.

Mrs Renée Short, chairman of the committee, said that there had not been time to consider whether the idea of transferring responsibility was sound.

Mr Jenkin issued a statement saying: "Te most that can be said for this report is that the House will wish to note the issues it raises when it comes to debate the Bill in a few weeks' time.

"I also expect the House will want to consider whether off-the-cuff opinion, not founded on any evidence heard by a committee, is the best way of providing an independent parliamentary overview by select committee."

Mr Jenkin has now criticized three out of four of the committee's reports with varying degrees of hostility. He seriously questioned the committee's conclusions in its report on perinatal mortality about the number of avoidable deaths and children born handicapped, and strongly rejected its conclusion that the Government did not know the effects of its proposals to cut expenditure on social services and social security.

His antipathy towards the committee's reports, each of which has been unanimous, is bound to raise questions about the government response to select committee work.

Before she was aware of Mr Jenkin's response, Mrs Short stated that he should be grateful for the amount of work the committee had been able to do in the short time available. If their proposals were accepted, the committee would have saved him "an awful lot of odium and protests" from outside.

The committee spent about two months considering the government proposals to transfer responsibility for the first eight weeks of sickness to employers in return for reductions in their national insurance contributions. They took no direct evidence.

The committee concluded that the proposals had two main defects. They would place further burdens on employers, particularly small firms, without adequate compensation. They would involve greater losses for families than for single or childless couples, "a shift in public policy which is entirely in the wrong direction".

The report also questioned the administrative savings claimed by the Government, because they amounted to a transfer from the public to the private sector. The report called for effective monitoring of any real savings achieved.

The committee also recommended that if the scheme were to go ahead employers should be responsible for the first 28 weeks of nickness rather than the first eight,

Publication of the report brought an immediate demand from the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses that the Government abandon its proposals.

The British Institute of Management last night wlecomed the report and called on the Government to reconsider their "ill thought out proposals".

The Government's Proposals for Income During Initial Sickness, Commons Paper 113 (Stationery Office).

Leading article, page 15

Hugh MacDiarmid: Memorial sculpture competition.

Monument to the poet of Langholm

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Langholm, a small border town in Dunfriesshire, although cautious about handing accolades to local notables, is preparing to mark the memory of its most famous son, Hugh MacDiarmid, the poet, who was born and buried there.

The Scottish Sculpture Trust yesterday announced plans to create a memorial sculpture to him in a field near the town. The Duke of Buccleuch has provided the site.

The trust has launched an appeal for £7,500, which will be matched by the Scottish Arts Council, to fund a competition to provide the sculpture. "We hope it will stimulate sculptural activity in Scotland and lead to the kind of work with which Rodin honoured Balzac and which Brancusi created in the park at Tirgu Jiu, in Romania", the trust said.

When MacDiarmid (1892-1978) was alive his marvellous, evocative poetry seemed to sail over the heads of the Langholm council, which declined to grant him the freedom of the town. It bestowed that honour instead on Mr Neil Armstrong, the astronaut, who is descended from a border clan but whose personal connexion with Langholm has been described as cosmic.

Langholm is already dominated by a monument, a towering memorial more than 100ft high on a hilltop to Sir John Malcolm. MacDiarmid's monument in Lambhill Field, a pleasant slope overlooking the town, will be less evident.

The house where MacDiarmid, the nom-de-plume of Christopher Grieve, was born is now part of the town's tourist office; the room above was once the public library he used. The only memorial to him so far is a bench in Princes Street Garden, Edinburgh, from which someone has removed the plaque.

Early action by Government on obscenity law ruled out

By Our Legal Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has said that there is no possibility of government legislation in this parliamentary session on the recommendations of the Williams committee on obscenity and film censorship.

Speaking last week to members of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts, he did not indicate what he thought about the report. The campaign has expressed its disappointment and concern that the Government has apparently "ducked the issue".

The committee recommended that the sale of pornographic magazines, and the viewing of pornographic films, should be permitted only in strictly controlled circumstances which ensured that members of the public were not subjected to offensive displays.

It also called for the repeal of obscenity laws covering the printed word, and the abolition of the "artistic or literary merit" defence available under the present law.

The second reading of the private member's Bill aimed at making illegal public indecent displays, proposed by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, is due in the Commons today.

Father tells of ban on 'Moonie' girls

The father of Judy and Jane Salter, who are members of the Unification Church (the Moonies) said yesterday that he had not allowed his daughters to spend a Christmas with the family in case they tempted two young relatives into the sect.

Mr Robert Salter, of Fairdene Road, Coulsdon, London, told Mr Justice Comyn and a jury in the High Court that he did not trust the two girls to join the family for Christmas in 1978. "We did not trust them to be in close contact with young people because they could influence them and get them into the Moonies", he said.

Mr Salter added that if his daughters were ill or in dire need, obviously they would be allowed home, but apart from that they were not.

He was giving evidence on the sixtieth day of the libel action by Mr Dennis Orme, United Kingdom leader of the Unification Church, against Associated Newspapers. Mr Orme claims he was libelled in a *Daily Mail* article in May, 1978, which alleged that the Moonies brainwashed converts and broke up families. Libel is denied.

The hearing continues today.

Fear grows among black leaders that racial attack led to 12 deaths

By Lucy Hodges

A big campaign has been launched by blacks in South London who believe that the fire in Deptford which resulted in 12 deaths two weeks ago was probably a racial attack and is not being treated as such by the police.

Meetings have been held in the past week, including a big demonstration outside the burnt-out house in New Cross Road, and a fact-finding inquiry has been established by the black community.

A Massacre Action Committee has also been set up. Yesterday a £5,000 reward was offered by *Westindian World* for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the fire.

The fire, which happened on January 18 after a party, is being seen by black leaders as the greatest tragedy to affect their people in Britain. This week's *Westindian World* referred to it as the "Lewisham mass murder".

Yesterday Mr Mike Phillips, of *Westindian World*, told a meeting: "We have got our own Jack the Ripper wiping out a dozen black people at a time. We are hoping to help to solve the crime and to concentrate attention on how bad the crime was and on the situation in this area, where racialist attacks are taking place all the time."

Blacks are critical of the way the police have handled the inquiry. Mr Russell Profitt, a Lewisham councillor, said that the impression given by the police last weekend was that they were ruling out racial motives. He was glad to see they now had an open mind.

Two Metropolitan Police commanders who were present at the meeting emphasized that they were taking the fire, which which they think was started deliberately, and the 12 deaths extremely seriously.

The Special Branch had been called in and more than 50 officers were working in what was the largest police inquiry mounted in south London, they said.

Commander John Smith, who is in charge of the local division, said the arson attack might turn out to have been racially motivated but no evidence had been found. He and Commander Graham Stockwell, who is organizing the inquiry, sympathized with the grieving relatives.

Earlier Mrs Gee Ruddock, the mother of Yvonne Ruddock, who had been celebrating her sixteenth birthday at the party and died in the fire, said she felt numb. "My heart is broken and I can still hear the sound of the screams", she said.

Commander Stockwell said he welcomed the £5,000 reward offered. A team of fire investigation scientists was orking on the case.

The fire had oeen caused by paint thinner being sprinkled over Mrs Ruddock's front parlour at about 5.30 am

In brief

Paper to close after 200 years

The *Doncaster Gazette* closed down yesterday after nearly 200 years of publication.

Doncaster Newspapers, which owned the paper, is offering the seven journalists employed on it voluntary redundancies or redeployment.

Coypu toll doubles

A total of 6,820 coypu were trapped and killed in East Anglia last year, twice the number in the previous year, Norwich coypu control headquarters said yesterday. The animals, which destroy farm crops, have also moved into north-east Essex.

Water rates soar

Water rates for householders *in the Yorkshire Water* Authority area will rise by a quarter from April. Charges have been affected not only by inflation but also by industry using less water during the recession.

Nursery cuts rejected

Proposals to close nine nursery classes with the loss of 14 teaching jobs have been rejected by Cumbria education committee. Hundreds of people had protested in Kendal yesterday over the planned cuts.

Fingertip rescue

Mr Terence Ball, who climbed out of a second-floor window as fire engulfed his flat in Dale Street, Sneinton, Nottingham, yesterday, was rescued as he clung to the window ledge by his fingertips.

Body found after fire

Detectives were investigating a fire yesterday at a flat in Montgomery Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, where Mrs Violet Lewis was found dead. Mr Herbert Lewis, her husband, was rescued by neighbours.

£59,340 bonuses

Orkney Islands Council paid out £59,340 from its oil revenue fund for a £15 Christmas bonus to about 4,000 pensioners, widows and disabled people, it was disclosed yesterday.

QC heads inquiry

Mr Arthur Mildon, QC, is to chair a panel of inquiry into the death of Lucy Gates, aged two, who died when a fire fell on her when she was left alone in a flat at Welling, Kent.

Long broad beans

Mr Derrick Gillett, aged 68, a plant breeder at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has produced 18-inch long broad beans containing 10 beans in a pod.

Children's hospital saved from closure

From John Chartres
Liverpool

The Government yesterday rejected a proposal to close the Heswall branch of the Royal Liverpool *Children's Hospital*, which has an international reputation for dealing with the cleft palate type of speech defect.

A working party had recommended the closure of the 150-bed hospital to save £687,000 during the next financial year and £845,000 in 1982-83. Liverpool Area Health Authority *faces a £2m annual deficit*.

Yesterday, however, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, wrote to Sir Eric Driver, chairman of the Mersey Regional Health Authority, saying that the hospital should not close.

The decision has been welcomed by doctors, surgeons and child health experts on Merseyside, who had objected to the proposal, believing that the hospital has a special role to play even under the present financial stringencies.

New move to oust TV head fails

From Philip Robinson
Plymouth

Lord Harris of Greenwich yesterday defeated a second attempt to oust him as chairman of Westward Television, which ceases operating as a television station at the end of this year.

He was one of three directors whom, Mr William Cheevers, former Westward managing director, wanted removed from the board because he said they had not exercised sufficient financial control over the company.

However, his move to dismiss Lord Harris was defeated at a special shareholders' meeting in Plymouth by three to one, with Lord Harris supported by holders of more than half of the 200,000 voting shares. these included the board's merchant bank advisers, Hambros, who bought a fifth of the voting shares from Mr Peter Cadbury, former Westward chairman, last November as part of an agreement he made to sever links with the company.

Moves to oust Mr Ronald Perry, the present managing director, and Mr Kenneth Holmes were also defeated.

Mr Cheevers wanted to know why Westward had been the only company to cut its dividend last year, why shareholders had not seen the accountants' report into the affairs of the company, and why, if the board felt that the company finances needed investigation, it did not call in the Department of Trade.

Mr Holmes told him that the board had cut the dividend after considering pofitability, cash, and the general outlook *for the company*. Lord Harris said that no assurance had ever been given to shareholders that they would see the accountants' report.

He told shareholders that he thought Mr Cheevers's requisitioning the meeting at a time when the Independent Broadcasting Authority was discussing the new television franchises was a large factor in Westward losing its franchise.

Lloyd's brokers jailed for bilking railway

From Our Correspondent
Southend

Two commuters who defrauded the railway were each jailed for 28 days at Southend Crown Court, Essex, yesterday. Mr Brian Higgs, QC, the recorder, said that similar offences might also produce custodial sentences.

Clifford Felstead, aged 37, of Elm Road, and Anthony Mannion, aged 32, of Flemming Crescent, both Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, *and both insurance* brokers at Lloyd's, had denied a joint charge of conspiring to defraud British Rail.

Mr Christopher Hookway, for the prosecution, said they were both short of money. Mr Mannion reported his annual season ticket lost and obtained a duplicate. He sold the original ticket to Mr Felstead for about £250 and they used the two tickets for about eight months until they were caught.

Jury barred from legal arguments in murder trial

The jury was sent out of the handless corpse drugs and murder trial at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday for legal arguments to be heard in private. The trial will be resumed today.

Evidence was given earlier by a prosecution witness, Mr Gavin Leydon, who complained about his treatment by local police. He denied a defence suggestion that he was a liar and an informer who hoped to "feed the police a little tit-bit" to please them. He agreed that he had been in trouble most of his life.

Earlier in the day when Mr Montague Dovener, QC, for the defence, was at the home of Mr Charles Mantell, QC, his opposite number for the Crown, Mr Mantell's bull terrier, Bill, bit his right hand. Mr Dovener arrived in court 30 minutes late.

Independent programme makers form new TV group

By Kenneth Gosling

A new production force in British television came into being *yesterday when 200* independent programme-makers launched a trade association and announced plans for cooperating with the Channel Four Television Company.

Mr Michael Peacock, chairman of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, said at a press conference in London that the launch marked the start of a new industry that would create employment and opportunities that would be of great benefit to the British television, film, information and entertainment industries.

He said that until now there had been no way for independent producers to sell their work to the BBC or the independent television companies. He spoke of a production, made at a cost of £75,000, for which the BBC had offered only £6,000.

He said new agreements would have to be drawn up with the unions and all the present agreements would be examined to see where more flexibility was needed. Much tough talking and argument lay ahead, but he thought the unions, especially those representing performers and writers, would welcome the new association.

Mr Peacock said the association had a potential membership of 500 but he thought the figure would settle at between 250 and 400. It would levy 1 per cent of the value of commissions from the fourth channel. The association would be appointing an administrator and an industrial relations officer.

Independent programme-makers will contribute at least 10 hours a week of the 50 hours the new channel is expected to broadcast.

Mr Peacock said there was a theory in some quarters that channel four "is still 'iffy' and that final decisions have got to be taken. This is totally to misunderstand what is happening.

"The days of waiting are over and from now on every week sees the momentum gathering behind the emergence of channel four."

HOME NEWS

Teachers escape in planned new cuts

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Confidential government plans for more cuts in local authority spending on education over the next three years envisage big reductions in higher education in the maintained sector, but little change in teacher numbers beyond those already planned.

The proposals, set out in a Department of Education and Science paper discussed yesterday by the local authorities and Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, give revised targets for spending by local authorities in England up to 1983-84.

The Government is looking for further savings of £98m in 1982-83 and £46m in 1983-84 (at 1979 survey prices) as well as those already planned and published in the last Public Expenditure White Paper. The additional cut of £87m now planned for 1981-82 was announced at the time of the rate support grant settlement in December.

Local authority education spending is now planned to fall from a total of £6,058m in 1981-82 to £5,844 in 1983-84. The White Paper assumed that local authority education spending would total £6,145m in 1981-82 and would fall to £5,890m in 1983-84 (all at constant 1979 prices).

Under the new plans, the number of full-time teachers in schools would fall from 426,000 in 1980-81 to 385,000 in 1983-84.

Mr Carlisle acknowledged that it would be difficult, but said he was concerned to protect the schools as far as possible. The local authorities emphasized that the cuts proposed in teaching numbers, although a little different from the old ones, would still have a serious impact on the curriculum, and the situation was getting rapidly worse.



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Senior officers from Britain, Italy and West Germany at RAF Cottesmore for the opening ceremony yesterday.

Tornado crews will learn their trade in the heart of Leicestershire

Training airfield for three nations opens

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
RAF Cottesmore, Leicestershire

The first RAF station in Britain where Sauerbraten and lasagne will jostle for an equal place on the menu alongside roast beef and cottage pie was opened yesterday amid a fanfare of trumpets by the chiefs of staff of three nations. It was the Tri-national Tornado Training Establishment, known as the TTTE, where British, West German and Italian crews will be taught together how to fly the supersonic, swing-wing £11m aircraft.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, said that the Tornado, the total procurement of which, including almost 400 aircraft, is costing Britain about *£5,000m, had not been without its* critics. But its cost had to be set beside that of a £1m tank or a guided missile destroyer priced at more than £100m. The Tornado, which will form the core of the RAF's strength during the remaining years of the century, was able to sink ships, crater enemy airfields and defend British air space.

Sir Michael was followed on the rostrum by the chiefs of the West German and Italian air forces and the Commander-in-Chief Fleet of the West German Navy, which is also being equipped with the aircraft. Together they unveiled a plaque to open the TTTE.

Because of bad weather plans for a spectacular fly-past by three Tornados, piloted in close formation by international crews, had to be curtailed. The chiefs of staff, standing to attention in the raw January morning, stared glumly at a loud but empty sky as a solitary aircraft roared behind a curtain of low cloud and mist. The RAF hastened to say that the programme had been changed "for safety reasons" and did not reflect on the Tornado's all-weather capabilities.

A total of 809 Tornados have been ordered by the three countries, which have divided the work proportionately between them. Most are the interdictor-strike version, 220 of which are for the RAF, 212 for the German Air Force, 112 for the German Navy, and *100 for the Italian Air Force.*

The RAF alone is also taking 165 of the larger £12.5m air defence variant, which will not be ready until the mid-1980s.

Pilots and navigators at Cottesmore will train for four weeks on ground courses, followed by nine weeks of flying, and will be taught in English.

Top college widens its entry scheme

By Our Education Correspondent

Hertford College, Oxford, won agreement from the other Oxford colleges yesterday to expand its unusual unconditional entrance scheme, which has been responsible, at least in part, for the college's spectacular leap from the bottom to near the top of the university's academic league table.

From next September Hertford will be able to accept up to a third of its undergraduate intake on the basis of interview and school report alone, with no requirement to take the entrance examination or to achieve A level grades other than the two grades Es required for university matriculation.

Until Hertford first introduced its unconditional offer scheme in 1965 it had been consistently among the bottom three colleges in the "Norrington league" of degree results. This year it was in second place.

Mr Geoffrey Warnock, principal of Hertford and vice-chancellor-elect of Oxford, said last night that there were colleges which did not, like Hertford's scheme, "but I think that colleges are a bit reluctant to try to prevent other colleges doing something which they find desirable, unless they can show that it damages them". A large number of colleges had abstained from voting, he said.

Book withdrawn after threat of legal action

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

A book describing alleged links between certain right-wing Christian organizations, secular right-wing groups and the South African Government's information service has been withdrawn from sale after a threat of legal action.

It was to have been published today by Kogan Page Ltd, and introduced at a press conference given by Mr Derrick Knight, the author. The conference has been cancelled, and the publisher has requested the return of review copies.

Mr Peter Newman, marketing director of Kogan Page, said: "We have had a libel claim, and we have withdrawn it at least temporarily while the difficulties are resolved". The company did not wish to say who had complained at this stage.

Guard organized £400,000 raid on own cash van

Vincent McBean, a security guard, was convicted by a jury's majority verdict of 10-2 at Newbury Crown Court, Berkshire, last night, of organizing a £400,000 raid on his own cash van.

Mr McBean, aged 24, of Braybrook Court, Wallington, Surrey, was found guilty of robbing Group 4 Security of £395,283 on February 27 last and blackmailing a fellow guard, Mr Gary Elliment.

The jury was told that Mr McBean devised two notes, which he sent to himself and Mr Elliment, claiming that the three children of a Group 4 supervisor had been kidnapped and would be harmed if the crew did not follow instructions.

Mr McBean will be sentenced today together with Raymond Fitzpatrick, of The Avenue, Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Turnpike Road, Hornsey, both north London, admitted the charges.

Water council expected to improve 7.9% offer

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The National Water Council is to hold fresh talks with union negotiators, probably next Tuesday, at which it is likely to improve the 7.9 per cent offer decisively rejected by the industry's 33,000 employees.

The move, announced yesterday, offered the first real hope of a negotiated settlement in the industry since talks broke down on January 6

The council said yesterday that the meeting would be held with an improved offer "in mind".

The executive of the biggest union in the industry, the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) has sanctioned a strike unless the offer is improved, and members of the National Union of Public Employees and the Transport and General Workers' Union are said by their leaders to have taken a similar stance by a majority of nine to one.

Mr Edmund Newall, GMWU national officer and secretary of the union side, welcomed the employers' initiative. He said: "I hope it leads to meaningful negotiations to avert a very difficult situation."

The fresh move came as leaders of 42,000 British Gas manual workers *prepared to resume* talks today on a 9 per cent offer, in response to a union claim for pay and conditions improvements estimated to cost 23 per cent more.

Mr John Edmunds, the GMWU's negotiator in the industry, has told the management that gas workers at branch meetings have backed union rejection of the offer and will be expecting a "substantial improvement" to it.

Plea for big change in secondary education

By Our Education Correspondent

Recommendations for a "vigorous transformation" of secondary education is made in a manifesto, published today, by a group of distinguished men and women in science, industry, politics, the churches, journalism, the arts and education.

The group of 32 include Lord *Butler of Saffron Walden*, the minister responsible for the Education Act, 1944; Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the Schools Council; Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes; Mr Christopher Price, MP, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts; Sir Frederick Dainton, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr Jonathan Miller, theatre and television director; and the Right Rev B. C. Butler, auxiliary bishop to the Archbishop of Westminster.

Traditional secondary education cannot meet the demands of the future for competence in life and work, flexibility in the face of change and the *development of the inner resources* needed to make constructive use of free time, the manifesto says.

The system which herded young people into examination halls every year for a once-for-all race with the clock, on which their status in society depended, was becoming increasingly inappropriate.

It distorted the curriculum, excluded vital elements in education such as learning to live and work in harmony with others, generated a damaging sense of failure among a large section of pupils, and positively rejected 10 to 20 per cent of the least able.

It also trained young people in intense academic competitiveness at a time when cooperative skills were everywhere in demand.

Secondary education was much too absorbed with the written word. In modern society oral fluency was of ever greater importance. The nationalistic tendencies of the past had to be extended by education to embrace global awareness, involvement and commitment, the manifesto says.

The traditional curriculum neglected too much the development of social/moral insight, so that the perennial values of civilized society were in jeopardy. Occasional periods of religious education could not alone provide a social/moral perspective.

Subjects were often taught in a narrow, one-dimensional form which deadened, rather than aroused, zest for learning.

The *job of secondary schools* should not be to concentrate on narrow, specialist study, but to provide a broad, integrated education which could serve as a good grounding for any specialism in tertiary education or in later life.

The full text of the 1,500-word "manifesto for change", together with the names of all the signatories, is published in today's *Times Educational Supplement*.

Cheap school meals may be postponed

By Our Education Correspondent

The proposed reduction in school meal charges in inner London from 35p to 25p should be postponed at least until after the local government elections in May, the schools subcommittee of the Inner London Education Authority decided yesterday.

A report from the chief education officer suggested that the proposed price reduction would cost the authority £2,680,000 a year on the assumption that the number of pupils taking school meals would increase by 3 per cent, and would cost more if there was a bigger increase in uptake.

Another report from the authority's director of legal services gave a warning that a reduction to 25p could expose the authority to a successful challenge in the courts as the resulting benefit to ratepayers was likely to be small in comparison with the increase in rates.

A local authority has a responsibility to maintain a balance between those who benefit from its expenditure and those who fund that expediture.

A court would intervene "where an increase in burden produces an increase in benefit which no sensible authority, acting with due appreciation of its responsibilities, could say was warranted by the increase in burden", the report said.

The schools subcommittee decided after those reports that the price should remain at *35p* for the time being.

Numbers fall: The number of pupils taking school meals has dropped by more than a quarter from nearly five million a year ago to 3.5 million now, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, annouced in the Commons yesterday.

The drop reflects the change in the law last spring that allowed local authorities to charge what they liked for school meals, and also reduced the number of children eligible for free meals. Most authorities charge between 40p and 60p, compared with 30p a year ago.

Corporal punishment: The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said that it would support members who refused to carry out voluntary duties in schools in protest against the authority's decision to go ahead with its plans to abolish corporal punishment in "county" secondary and special schools from next Monday.

The authority decided yesterday not to accept the union's proposal for a declaration of an official dispute.

Council leader breaks ranks on cuts policy

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Mr Peter Bowness, leader of the London Boroughs Association, broke ranks with his local government colleagues by condoning government guidelines for spending reductions at a meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday.

He said during a debate on the request by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for a cut of 5.6 per cent in the coming year over 1978-79 budgets, that he approved of the action.

Uniform opposition to the cut was expressed by local government representatives at a meeting of the consultative council on local finance with Mr Heseltine last week.

Mr Bowness said yesterday *that he approved of the 5.6 per* cent target because authorities which had complied with every government request to make savings nevertheless faced large rate increases through financing councils which refused to make economies.

He was criticized for his dissent by Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Some authorities could not achieve the targets, Mr Smart said.

Jersey looks to France for its electricity

From Our Correspondent
St Helier

Jersey is to be plugged into the French *national* grid to meet its electricity demands.

There are plans for an £11m submarine *cable* to the Normandy coast which by 1985 will be capable of providing up to *half* the *island's* electricity needs.

Strong opposition is expected from environmentalist groups in the island, who object to the nuclear power stations on the French coast near by.

Mr Richard Wade, managing director of the Government-controlled Jersey Electricity Company, who is setting up the link, said: "The French have nuclear power stations situated on the Normandy coast whether we like it or not. The real question is whether we are going to take advantage of this situation."

Small woods cut down at 'quite alarming rate'

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Small woods were being cut down "at a quite alarming rate", Mr Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday. He was appealing at the annual meeting in London of Timber Growers England and Wales for conciliation between rival factions in the countryside.

He gave a warning that farmers and foresters would probably face stricter planning controls in the uplands but not in the lowlands. "I think that would be absolutely barmy."

He believed that unless a body was created to arbitrate between the rival claims to land of farmers and foresters, then "we are going to proceed in a rather lame way".

He rejected an assertion from Mr George Lillingston, president of the Country Landowners' Association, that since farmers and foresters had created the present rural landscape of Britain they could be trusted to preserve it.

"Modern farmers have undoubtedly destroyed a great deal of the pattern of the past", he said. "There are many farmers, particularly the bigger ones, who could make a much better contribution than they do. Unless we as farmers and landowners do something, then in 15 or 20 years' time someone is going to make us do it."

Film men stage strike against job cuts

Film technicians working for the Central Office of Information staged a 24-hour strike yesterday against plans to make them redundant. Twenty-six technicians were told last week that their jobs were to go by April, 1982.

The office has been told to reduce its staff and wants the work of making government information films to go to private companies. The Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians says that would cost the taxpayer more.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the union, said yesterday: "Unless the COI meets our demands for no redundancies, our members in film laboratories, independent television and film production will black all government film work".

A Civil Service "mole" has disclosed a scathing attack made on the Government's information services by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Sapper said last night.

He said the minister was distinctly insulting about the Government's public relations men and women in a confidential document dated December 31, 1980.

WEST EUROPE

Two men sentenced to death in France for hold-up murder

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 29

The assizes at Châlon-sur-Saône, near Lyons, yesterday sentenced two men to death for the murder in a hold up last February of a petrol station attendant, Charles Diemer, who was 22.

The jury not only sentenced to death the murderer, Paul Laplace, aged 59, already twice sentenced to life imprisonment for other offences, but freed conditionally after serving only six years, but also pronounced the same sentence on his accomplice, Bruno Albert, aged 27. The public prosecutor had only demanded a life sentence in his case.

These sentences bring to six the total of prisoners waiting to know their fate in various condemned cells—all sentenced in the past four months. They await the verdict of the Cour de Cassation, the highest court, to handle criminal cases.

The jury took one and a half hours to reach its decision. In the case of M Laplace, the death sentence was almost a foregone conclusion taking into account the mood of public opinion and its sharp reactions against second offenders.

M André Demole, the chief public prosecutor had emphasized that M Laplace had had a rather exceptional criminal career, being tried by the assizes for the third time. If he had served his previous sentence in full, the victim would have been still alive. M Laplace had spent 20 years in jail and had, during his detention, obtained a qualification as a welder.

It was M Albert, employed in a supermarket in the suburbs of Châlon, who had suggested the hold-up. M Laplace had threatened the woman cashier with a sawn-off rifle. When M Diemer tried to intervene he was ordered to remain where he stood, but seconds later he was struck by a bullet in the stomach. He died after two weeks.

The two men made off by car and were arrested four days later. M Laplace said he had panicked when the station attendant intervened and the shot had gone off by mistake. His counsel, Maître Jean-René Journet, told the jury: "I do not pretend that Laplace has not killed. But I say he did not mean to kill. If you sentence him to 20 years, he will come out of prison in the year 2000. Do you not think this is sufficient?"

There is no doubt that the severity of this verdict reflects the firm conviction of the average Frenchman and woman that the death penalty has a deterrent effect and should not only be retained but carried out. The abolitionists argue that the spate of death sentences inflicted by juries in the past few months is the result of a "psychosis of insecurity", provoked by the sharp rise in delinquency in the past few years; and also results from the changes in the mode of selection of juries which are no longer made up of notables chosen by local mayors, but of people chosen by lot from the electoral register.

M Pierre Bas, a Gaullist deputy for Paris, and a passionate abolitionist, has for several years tried unsuccessfully to secure abolition of the death penalty by moving the suppression of the credits for the public executioner in the budget of the Ministry of Justice.

He said: "These new jurors sentence to death to ensure the security of their fellow countrymen, which proves that they have not gone into the problem of the death penalty. It is an old reflex of fear that in periods of crisis gives additional work to the executioner, when salvation lies in lucidity."

The abolitionists accuse the Government of lacking the courage and conviction to introduce a Bill in Parliament to abolish the death penalty, irrespective of the mood of public opinion. Both President Giscard d'Estaing and M Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice, have gone on record on several occasions as saying that they were opposed to the death penalty in principle, save for particularly odious crimes, like the murder of children, of old defenceless people, hostages, and police officers.

M Robert Schmelck, the president of the Cour de Cassation, said in a recent televised interview that he was not surprised at the figures of a recent poll showing a two-thirds majority for retaining the death penalty.

His personal experience as a mayor of a small village in Lorraine convinced him that if the death sentence were abolished, people would be even more inclined than at present to take the law into their own hands.

EEC licence setback to fishermen of Spain

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 29

The failure of the European Community to extend licences for the Spanish fishing fleet by one more month, together with snags in negotiations with other countries continued today to create an imminent threat of idleness for an estimated 10,000 fishermen.

EEC members, unable to agree on their respective quotas, ended their last meeting of the month in Brussels yesterday without taking up the Spanish question. As a result, the 168 licences issued to Spaniards for deep sea fishing in Community waters for 1980, which were extended until January 31 this year, will run out at midnight on Saturday.

Another agreement, with Rabat, allowing Spanish fishing vessels to operate off the Moroccan coast, is also due to expire on Saturday, as is an agreement with Portugal.

The simultaneous expiry of these agreements is causing great concern to the Spanish government. A delegation, headed by Señor Carlos Robles Piquer, the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, flew to Rabat today to try to break the deadlock in talks with Moroccan officials.

Bargaining over Community licences must wait, informed sources said, at least until February 10, when the EEC ministers responsible for fisheries matters meet in Brussels. Spanish authorities hope to reach a satisfactory agreement with Portugal after *bargaining with the Moroccans.*

The temporary ban on fishing in Community waters alone will put 7,000 Spanish fishermen, the crews of 415 ships, out of work until the issue is resolved. They exploit the 168 licences for deep sea fishing which the EEC has allotted.

Since the licences are based on the horsepower of the ships' engines, the 168 licences make it possible for about 200 ships to operate at one time. They take turns, which means that even without the enforced interruption the Spanish fleet, which works off Europe's Atlantic coast, is active only half the time.

Spain protested bitterly when it was limited last year to 163 licences and 11,870 tons of hake, the country's favourite sea food. But when, last November, the EEC offered only 95 licences and 8,000 tons of hake for 1981, Spain balked and rejected a later offer of 98 licences too.

Vitriol thrown into face of French right-winger

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 29

M Michel Caignet, aged 26, the former treasurer of the banned right-wing group Fédération d'Action Nationaliste Européenne (Fane) was in hospital tonight suffering from severe burns to the face and hand after a bottle of vitriol was thrown at him

A student at the Sorbonne and a close collaborator of M Marc Frederiksen, the founder of Fane, M Caignet was attacked by four young men who also stole his satchel. They did not, however, find and take the 10,000 francs (£900) he was carrying in a pocket.

The police later discovered the car in which the four attackers made their escape. In it were leaflets for a Jewish organization and the Anti-fascist Front as well as a scrap of paper on which was written M Caignet's address.

Responsibility for the bombing of a synagogue in Paris last October was claimed by the group which took over after Fane was banned. Police so far have not been able to prove whether or not the claim was a hoax.

The appeal by M Frederiksen against an 18-month sentence for inciting racial hatred passed last October is to be heard next Wednesday. It has been delayed to allow M Frederiksen time to recover from injuries he received after being attacked by a group of youths after the bombing.

Norway lets British boats return

By John Winder

British boats were being allowed to resume fishing in Norwegian waters, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries, announced in a Commons committee yesterday. He said the decision took effect from noon that day.

The subject was negotiated on Wednesday but the official reaction of the Norwegians was not known until a telegram arrived from Brussels for the minister.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said afterwards that the Norwegian concession would give fishermen an opportunity to widen the variety of fish available to British housewives. "We have not had to give away anything."

The announcement means that vessels from Grimsby, Lowestoft, Aberdeen and several other Scottish ports, will be able to resume fishing.

The concession to Norway will be access to 1,000 tonnes of shrimps which Denmark will be arranging for its Scandinavian neighbours in Greenland waters.

The announcement was welcomed by MPs considering the Fisheries Bill in standing committee

Afterwards, however, Mr Gavin Strang, the opposition spokesman on fisheries, was less than enthusiastic. Asked for a comment he replied with a general observation that the Opposition was pessimistic about prospects for a settlement at the EEC fisheries policy negotiations in February.

"The Norwegian agreement and the crisis situation in the industry is going to make it imperative for the Government to make a major statement about providing support for the industry in the absence of an agreement."

Lapps lose case after 15 years of court battles

Stockholm, Jan 29. — The longest court case in Sweden's legal history ended today when the Swedish Supreme Court refused to recognize the right of a Lapp community to a hilly region in the north of the country.

In 1966, 11 Lapp villages sued the Swedish crown over ownership of some 4,000 square miles close to the Norwegian border. The lapps' main motive was to win greater control over the region's development. They felt that their way of living and culture were threatened by the construction of roads and railways and by a consequent increase in tourism.

But the state held that, as nomads, the Lapps could not acquire the right of ownership over a territory which they had never claimed in the course of history.—Agence France-Presse.

West Germany wants PoWs to be released

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, Jan 29

The West German Government believes the remaining five German prisoners of war still held in captivity should be released

The five PoWs are: Herr Rudolf Hess, the 87-year-old former deputy to Hitler, who is in the Allied prison at Spandau, West Berlin; Herr Franz Fischer, aged 79, a former Gestapo official, and Herr Ferdinand aus der Funten, aged 71, the former SS Hauptstürmführer, who are both imprisoned in The Netherlands; Herr Walter Reder, aged 65, the former SS Stürmbannführer who is now an Austrian citizen; and Herr Erich Koch, aged 84, the former Gauleiter of East Prussia and Reich Commissioner for the then German-occupied Ukraine, who is imprisoned in Poland.

EEC tax going up on food imports

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 29

The EEC tax on British food imports will rise to 16.4 per cent next Monday, intensifying the war of words between Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, and importers and consumer groups.

The tax is imposed to bridge the ever-widening gap between the value of sterling and that of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used to translate EEC farm prices into the national currency.

As the pound, buoyed up by North Sea oil and high interest rates, has soared on the foreign exchange markets, there has been no compensating adjustment of the artificial "green" rate.

As a result the levy on imported bacon will rise next week to more than 7p a lb, on cheese to more than 10p a lb, on butter to more than 13p a lb, and on tinned ham to 14p a lb.

Earlier this week importers claimed that they would be able to cut the prices of those goods in British shops substantially, and in some cases by the full amount of the levy, if the "green pound" were revalued to bring it into line with sterling's real worth.

Mr Walker disputes these claims, maintaining that foreign producers would prefer to pocket the extra profits rather than let their prices fall if the import tax was removed. He points out, for example, that Danish bacon has a price advantage over British bacon even with the import tax.

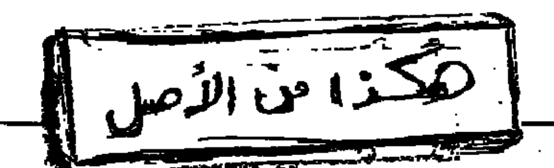
Ministry of Agriculture officials said today that Mr Walker had no intention of revaluing the "green pound" before the EEC's annual spring farm price fixing negotiations, and even then he would strongly resist it.

The French will undoubtedly be among those urging revaluation of both the green pound and the green Deutschemark, which they see as an impediment to their own food exports and as an unfair subsidy to those of Britain and West Germany.

Mr Walker's main defence is that revaluation of the "green pound" would hurt British farmers, who suffered a 24 per cent loss in real income last year, by reducing their EEC guaranteed support prices by the full amount of the import tax. This, he contends, would far outweigh the gain to consumers.

A less appreciated aspect of the import tax is that it has furnished the EEC budget with an additional source of revenue. This means that the exhaustion of revenue, which had been widely forecast to occur this year, has receded until *1982.*

With the threat of bankruptcy removed, at least for the time being, one of the pressures that might have worked to hold down the increase in farm prices at the spring settlement has been greatly relaxed, and the prospects for agricultural reform weakened.



The most efficient engineering won.

The new Escort, our front wheel drive hatchback, is 'Car of the Year 1981'.

The following quotes from some of the judges are used in full. We haven't indulged in any crafty editing.

So without more ado, here's what they said. And why we think they said it.

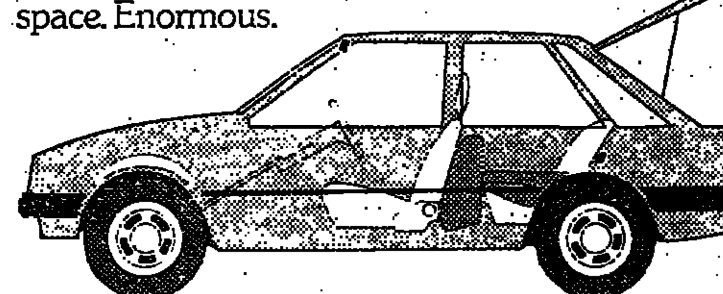
> 'The most points for the Ford Escort, because it's new throughout, good appearance, a motor car with a brilliant and advanced design, the most up to date car on offer for the money'.
>
> Dr. Alfred Prokesch

The reason that the Escort is so 'brilliant and advanced' is that we've kept the engineering as simple and straightforward as possible. In engineering simple is efficient.

That's one reason why the Escort costs so little to run.

> 'Scores heavily on styling, equipment, passenger comfort, ride and handling plus its meaningful contribution towards cutting the cost of motoring'.
>
> Niall Hanley

The Escort is comfortable because it's so spacious. The engine is mounted transversely, which leaves more room for passengers. And with the back seat folded there's 48.7 cu ft of luggage space. Enormous.



Standard equipment on the Ghia includes a tilt slide sunroof. And options include such luxuries as electric windows, central door locking, tinted glass and headlamp washers.

> 'The Escort is a next to perfect car with an extremely good engine, a combination which should make it easier for many of us to step down into the economy class'.
>
> Stig Bjorklund

The 1.3 and 1.6 litre engines are completely new. With features like self-adjusting tappets, breakerless ignition and aluminium cylinder heads, they're amazingly fuel efficient. There's also a 1.1 litre engine based on the proven Fiesta unit, which was widely praised for its power and economy.

It pulls like a lion.

***Performance and economy – saloon**

Government fuel consumption test figures	Constant 56 mph (90 kmh) (mpg)	(litres/100 km)	Top Speed (mph)†
1.1 HC	49.6	5.7	90.1
1.3 HC	47.1	6.0	97.6
1.6 HC (IV)	44.1	6.4	103.8

Simulated urban cycle	Constant 75 mph (120 kmh)	
1.1 HC 34.9 mpg (8.1 litres/100 km)	36.2 mpg (7.8 litres/100 km)	†Ford computed figures
1.3 HC 30.4 mpg (9.3 litres/100 km)	36.7 mpg (7.7 litres/100 km)	
1.6 HC 30.7 mpg (9.2 litres/100 km)	34.4 mpg (8.2 litres/100 km)	

> 'THE ESCORT IS THE BEST FORD EVER PRODUCED, BALANCED IN ITS CHARACTERISTICS, WITH A COMPLETE RANGE OF ENGINES WHICH PRACTICALLY NEVER NEED SERVICING'.
>
> ARTURO DE ANDRES

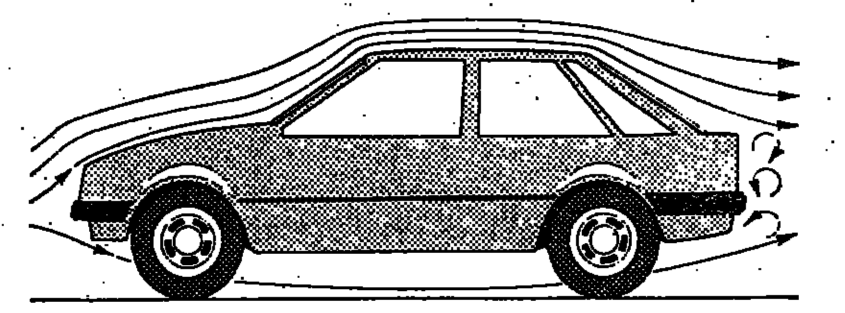
The Escort actually needs a routine service at 12,000 miles, with a minor one at 6,000.

However the car is packed with so many labour saving ideas that even the 12,000 mile service is very straightforward. For instance, all Escorts have Ford's ingenious self-adjusting clutch. And the brakes can be checked for wear without removing the wheels.

> 'Ford Escort – by far the best car – and range – of 1980. All new. Efficient. Intelligent styling'.
>
> Edouard Seidler

Styling used to be an art.

Today at Ford it's a science. Aimed mainly at improving aerodynamic efficiency. The Escort has a drag coefficient of just 0.385, something that contributes enormously to its fuel efficiency.



> 'Escort exhibits an up to date design, good handling characteristics and a high standard of workmanship'.
>
> Paul Guth

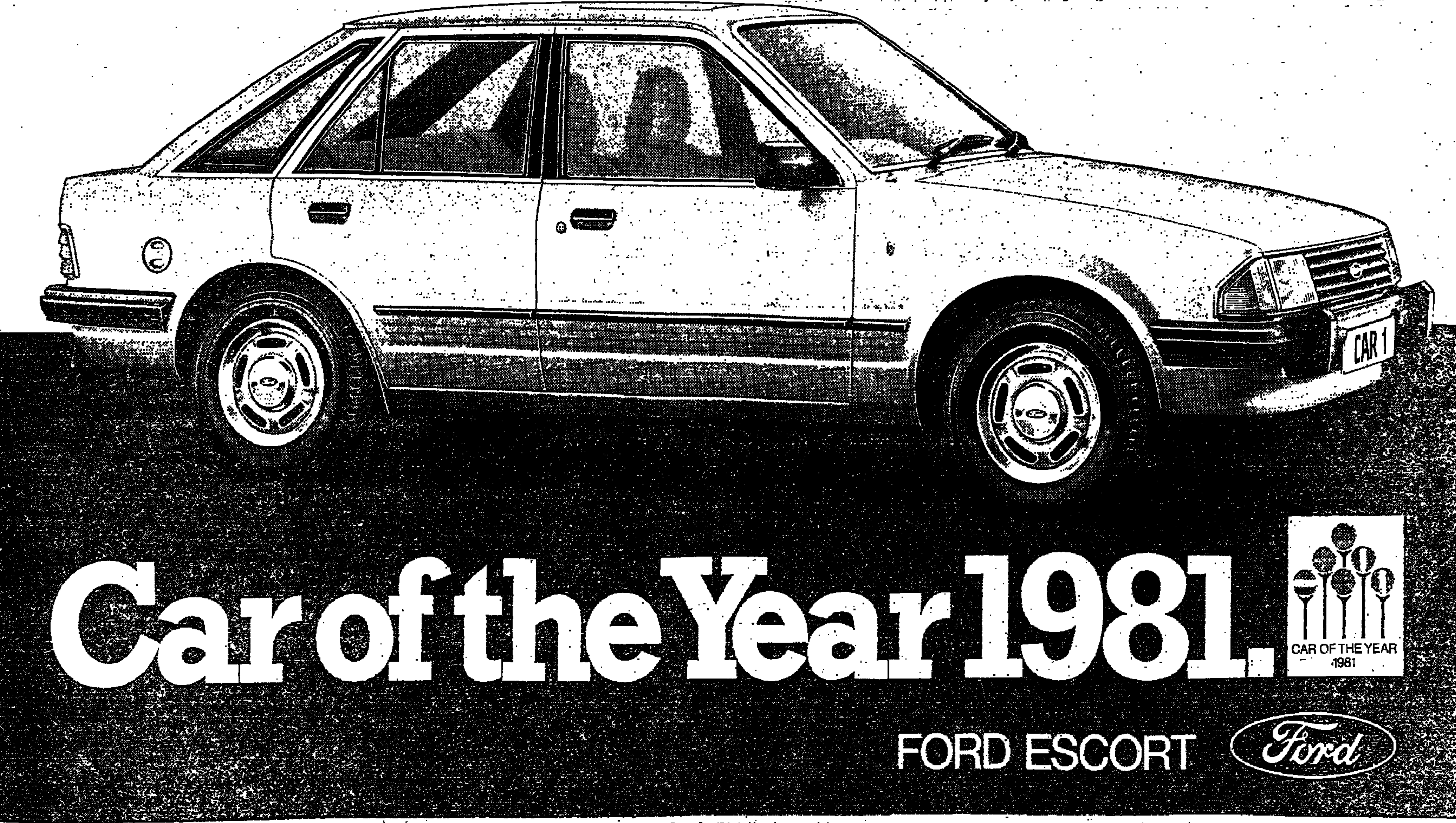
The Escort owes its crisp handling to its all independent suspension, quick rack and pinion steering and its diagonally linked brakes.

While evidence of the workmanship is seen in its 20 stage anti-rust treatment, which includes total immersion in anti-corrosive paint and wax injection into doors and box sections.

It's built to last.

> 'The Escort is the best car ever built by Ford. Adding up all its characteristics the Escort outscores all the other cars presented this year'.
>
> Rudolf Glismann

Well, that about sums it up. We'd like to say thank you to the judges. And remind you that the Escort is only one car from Ford's best selling range. If you'd like to test drive the Car of the Year 1981, it's at your Ford showrooms now.



The car illustrated is an Escort Ghia, fitted with optional extra headlamp washers.

Car of the Year competition organised by Autovise (Holland), Telegraph Sunday Magazine (Britain), L' Equipe (France), Quattroroute (Italy), Stern (West Germany), Vi Bilagare (Sweden).

OVERSEAS

Shaikh Yamani urges West to 'correct Middle East damage'

From Robert Fisk
Al Hada, Saudi Arabia, Jan 29

Shaikh Zaki Yamani crossed the living room of his summer residence, his gold-fringed black robe billowing behind him and just the faintest trace of anxiety on his face. "King Husain is waiting", he said. "I have to take him to the airport." He turned to us with the kind of ironic smile that only the world's most powerful minister could afford. "After all", he said, "I cannot keep a king waiting."

We followed him through the doors to the terrace where birds chattered high up in the fir trees beside the empty swimming pool. A member of his staff switched on an automatic fountain and the cascade of water poured down a concrete sluice beside some cemented rocks. A gentle breeze rustled the bushes in the middle of the plastic lawn. There was scarcely a speck of dust on the false grass.

The Saudi Oil Minister walked to the other side of the pool. He had to leave immediately, he said. Robed advisers moved around him but he seemed to hesitate. "What are your questions?" he asked.

Shaikh Yamani is slightly plumper than his photographs suggest but his finely groomed beard and moustache give him the essential element of decisiveness that other oil ministers have come to respect. In Bali last month, many of the oil delegates stood up when the Shaikh entered the conference chamber. Talk to him for only a few seconds and you quickly see why.

The third Islamic summit had just reaffirmed its intention to use economic sanctions against the West but Shaikh Yamani frowned when we suggested that he might use Saudi Arabia's oil weapon once more. "We never stopped using our oil weapon", he said. "In 1973, we did use it to attract world opinion to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the fact that the West needs the Arab countries and has an interest in Arabia.

"But thereafter we kept using our oil as a positive weapon to tell the West not only that they need the Arabs but also that it can depend on them". Shaikh Yamani's secretary, a young Saudi with a degree in marketing from Arizona, smiled sharply. Behind the trees, the traffic murmured along the four-lane highway to Mecca. The Shaikh spoke very slowly, a man who was used to choosing his words with the care of a philologist.

"Israel cannot do anything without the help of the United States and the help of the West.



Shaikh Yamani: "Oil is a political instrument."

And you will have to be responsible for correcting the damage done so far.

"We are not trying to put any pressure on you. But do not forget that what we are doing right now with regard to our oil is far more than what we have to do in the ordinary circumstances. We are depleting our reserves, producing more than we need, in order to please you.

"Our policy is to use oil as a political instrument. We hope that the West will do what is needed in order to bring about a peaceful settlement in the area and therefore the oil weapon will be used in a constructive manner".

The Shaikh's replies, of course, depended upon his audience. To a correspondent of the American Broadcasting Company, he insisted that Saudi Arabia would not threaten the United States with an oil cut-off but he was none the less prepared to speculate upon the effect that a cutback of oil to provide just domestic Saudi consumption would have upon the United States.

"The rate of unemployment (in America) will at least double", he said. "The price of oil will double again. The rate of inflation will go up and then you can talk about the depression, not a recession.

"Definitely I'm not threatening. You threaten when you need to. Among friends I do not think we are threatening."

A servant brought tea, tiny glasses on miniature saucers, on each of which lay a small solid gold spoon. Across the pool, another functionary unrolled a large and embroidered Arab carpet of blue and gold on the marble terrace. Behind us, high on the mountainside, small clouds shuffled above the rocks and across towards Taif.

Was Soviet foreign policy and the Russian advance into Afghanistan directed towards the Gulf and specifically towards Saudi Arabia? "There are so many interpretations to the Russian move," he said and then, with indulgent subtlety, continued: "One important interpretation is that they are slowly and gradually approaching the oilfields in order to secure a stable and secured supply of oil for them and for their satellites.

"What supports this view is the Russian move in the Horn of Africa and South Yemen and their efforts in Baluchistan to help the tribes and young people in guerrilla warfare. All these things are strong indications that the Russians really are trying to surround the area. "I am sure their real hope is to get an oilfield".

The Saudis have of late been speaking in harsher vein than usual about the Russians. Shaikh Yamani clearly reacts no differently than his colleagues when it comes to Afghanistan. But he finished speaking abruptly, simply walking away round the side of the terrace to where the embroidered carpet had been spread out on the marble. His staff and servants followed him, and all took off their shoes.

And so one of the most powerful men on earth knelt down to pray beside his empty swimming pool. King Husain would have to wait a little longer.

Moscow attack: Moscow radio said today that "reactionary Muslim regimes" were behind the Islamic conference resolution calling for the removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (UPI reports from Moscow).



Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, and his wife, Misty, with President and Mrs Reagan, in Washington.

President backs Seaga regime

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 29

Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, today greeted an offer of moral and material support from President Reagan with great enthusiasm.

He said his country was "very keen and interested" in seeing the new American Administration bolster the economies of democratic countries in the Caribbean and Central America, so that they could withstand infiltration by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Mr Seaga, who is the first foreign government leader to visit Washington since Mr Reagan assumed office last week, has been having talks at the White House and the State Department with members of the new Administration.

The decision to invite him so early to Washington underlines Mr Reagan's promise to improve relations with America's neighbours.

Although Cuba had suffered several setbacks in recent elections in English-speaking Caribbean countries like his own and Dominica, it had not given up its efforts to extend its influence in the area, the Jamaican leader said.

"The Cubans are only standing in the wings waiting to see what will happen." They were waiting to see whether new "moderate" governments were able to translate their capitalist economic policies into reality.

During their talks, the two Governments had agreed to organize a joint group of officials to work out private development programmes in Jamaica Mr Seaga said.

The group would also look at ways of modifying tax, investment and other laws in both countries to facilitate private investment in the Caribbean country.

There had already been an agreement in principle between the two Governments on changing United States tax laws to encourage American businessmen to hold conventions in Jamaica. This could be an important source of revenue for the country, which relied heavily on overseas visitors to provide much needed foreign exchange.

Mr Seaga, who was elected Prime Minister last October said that most of his talks in Washington had centred on ways of improving his country's ailing economy.

Talks involving officials from the International onetary Fund to provide Jamaica with about $550m (about £230m) to boost the economy were proceeding "very satisfactorily" Mr Seaga said. He expected that the loan package would be ready for approval by the monetary fund by mid-March.

The Jamaican leader promised that his Government would cooperate closely with Washington in helping the moderate anti-Cuban forces in the Caribbean and Central America. But Jamaica had to respect the independence and integrity of other governments.

Mr Reagan denounces Soviet use of détente

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 29

President Reagan, in his first press conference today, issued a stern denunciation of the Soviet Union and all its works, and said that any renewed arms limitation talks would have to be on the basis of actual reductions in the numbers of nuclear warheads.

He was asked what he thought were the long range intentions of the Soviet Union, and replied: "So far, détente has been a one-way street that the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own ends."

He said that since the Russian revolution there had been no Soviet leader who had not repeated "their determination that their goal must be the promotion of world revolution and the one world socialist or communist state.

"Now as long as they do that, and as long as they at the same time have openly and publicly declared that the only morality they recognize is what will further their cause, meaning they reserve unto themselves the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat in order to attain that, and that is moral, not immoral, and we operate on a different set of standards. I think when you do business with them, even under détente, you keep that in mind."

President Reagan reaffirmed that the United States would stand up against any new act of terrorism perpetrated against it. "People have gone to bed in some of these countries that have done these things to us in the past", he said, "confident that they can go to sleep and wake up in the morning and that the United States wouldn't have taken any action.

"What I meant by that phrase was that anyone who does these things violates our rights, is not going to be able to go to bed with that confidence." The phrase he meant was his promise that future violations of the rules of international behaviour would meet with "swift and effective retribution".

On the other hand, asked whether the United States would exact vengeance from Iran, he replied that revenge was not worthy of the Americans. What would it do? he asked. He went on to say that he did not think that the United States could act as though nothing had happened.

Mr Reagan insisted that the Salt army limitation treaty was unacceptable to him because it permitted large increases in the numbers of Soviet warheads — an argument that many experts will find a striking over-simplification. On a number of other matters, where reporters asked him questions on specific matters, he admitted his ignorance, saying that the subjects were under examination

He started the mess conference with an announcement that he was taking steps immediately to reduce the federal budget, pointing out that the national debt ceiling had just been raised to $985,000m). He said that he had just ordered that the wages and price control programmes of the Council on Wage and Price Stability would be abolished

He promised more substantial cuts soon, saying that the cuts will apply to every sector of the budget and that they will be bigger than anyone expects. The *Washington Post* claims this morning that foreign aid will be cut by $2,500m from $8,000m.

He also announced that he was imposing an immediate freeze on the promulgation of new federal regulations for 660 days, to give his Administration time to set up a review body.

He was asked about tax cuts, and replied that the question of the date from which they would be calculated was still being examined but that the main thing was to establish the prinicple that 10 per cent would be taken off personal income tax every year for three years, with corresponding cuts in taxes on business.

President Belaunde's honeymoon with unions is over six months after the ending of military rule

Austerity harms Peru democracy

From Kevin Dunn
Reuter Correspondent
Lima, Jan 29

Six months after the restoration of democracy in Peru, President Fernando Belaunde Terry is facing growing opposition from organized labour and members of the extreme left.

The 67-year-old former architect regained the presidency last July 28 on a wave of popular support after 2 years of military rule. But the failure of his conservative Government to fulfil promises of cutting inflation and providing jobs and homes has fuelled discontent.

The focus of opposition is the bitter pill of austerity, which Señor Manuel Ulloa, the Prime Minister, has asked the 17 million Peruvians to swallow this year.

In a sombre new year speech, Señor Ulloa, who is also Minister of Economy and Finance, announced that the Government was reducing subsidies on basic foodstuffs and fuels. Staple foods such as milk, sugar, bread and rice soared by almost 50 per cent.

Wages, however, were increased by only 12 per cent. Trade unions seized on the measures to coordinate their campaign against the Government and call a one-day general strike in protest.

Despite the death of three people in clashes with police, the strike was less violent and less effective than many in recent Peruvian history. Although the Government survived its first serious test, the strike was far from the failure claimed by cabinet ministers and pro-Government media.

"People are beginning to realize they are no better, and perhaps worse off than six months ago", a foreign diplomat commented. "That may not be crucial now but if after a year or 18 months they are still no better off, Belaunde—and democracy—could be in trouble".

Another source of increasing irritation for the Belaunde administration has been a resurgence of sabotage attacks, apparently by left-wing extremists.

The attacks, blamed on a small Maoist group called Sendero Luminoso (Lighted Path), have damaged communications towers, banks, police stations and official buildings without causing casualties. Police, however, have not ruled out that political extremists were responsible for shooting a policeman dead in Lima earlier this month.

Another indication of increasing violence was news of an armed clash between anti-terrorist police and alleged leftist guerrillas in the southern region of Ayacucho. A guerrilla was killed and a police officer wounded in the incident, according to official sources.

The guerrillas are far from mounting a serious threat to the stability of the Government, according to political sources. But they said politicians of all parties feared popular discontent could turn increasingly militant if the economic crisis continues.

The Government's declared aim is to attack inflation, which was running at 60 per cent at the end of last year, and rejuvenate the economy.

According to Dr Ulloa, there are some signs of recovery. He said growth accelerated to 4.5 per cent in the second half of 1980 from 2.6 per cent in the first six months of the year. The official target for this year is 6 per cent.

But the country remains saddled by a foreign debt of almost $10,000m (£4.170m) which will eat up 36 per cent of this year's state revenue on repayments.

Key aspects of Government policy are to attract foreign investment and reduce import tariffs to stimulate national industry. Left-wingers have won wide publicity by accusing the Government of wanting to hand over the country's natural resources, principally minerals and petroleum, to the multinational corporations.

President Belaunde himself, though probably still the most popular politician in the country, has not been immune to criticism. Despite his popular image, he failed recently in an attempt to neutralize a general strike in the jungle capital of Iquitos by making a much publicized personal visit.

However, political opposition is far from united and the largest party outside the Government, the Apra (American Revolutionary Popular Alliance), is torn by internal disputes.

Premier and Solidarity meet today

Warsaw, Jan 29.—Solidarity, the Polish free trade union organization, announced tonight that its leaders would hold talks with Mr Jozef Pinkowski, the Prime Minister, tomorrow in an effort to halt a cycle of strikes and labour protests.

Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, agreed to the Warsaw meeting after talks with Mr Stanislaw Ciosek, the Minister for Union Affairs, in the south eastern city of Rzeszow, the strike headquarters of Polish farmers who are demanding the right to set up their own union.

The talks with Mr Ciosek, which union officials said took place in a good atmosphere, came after a decision by Solidarity's national consultative commission to call a five-day moratorium on strikes.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news-agency Tass today made its strongest attack on Solidarity since Poland's labour unrest started last summer, accusing it of trying to wreck the economy and destroy socialism.

The criticism was in a report from Warsaw which strongly implied that the Polish authorities should make no further concessions to Solidarity over Saturday working or on other grievances.—Reuter.

Barley offer: Poland yesterday made its first offer for part of the British share of the record EEC barley "mountain", which has been on sale for a fortnight. The bids were vetted yesterday by the EEC cereals management committee, which includes officials from all member states (Hugh Clayton writes).

Iran screens last-day talks with captives

Tehran, Jan 29.—Iran today showed film of interviews made with some of the 52 United States hostages on the day before their realease in which most said they were generally well-treated. But the two women captives complained of maltreatment.

The apparently unedited film was shown to foreign and Iranian journalists by state television, and consisted of interviews with 14 people, conducted by a woman speaking good English.

Television staff said the interviewer was one of the radical Muslim students who occupied the United States embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

Iran has denied charges that the captives who were released on January 20, were tortured during their 444 days of confinement.

One unidentified man declined to speak to the Iranian film interviewer and left his seat.

Eilzabeth Ann Swift, aged 40, a political officer in the embassy, said that at first she had been tied to a chair each day, blindfolded, and made to slee pon the floor without a mattress.

"In the first month and a half, we were questioned intensively. In the beginning, we were threatened . . . after that, the girls who took care of us tried their best to have good relations with us."

But Kathryn Koob, formerly director of the Iran-America Cultural Society, said: "I did not experience the intensive questioning that Ann did in the beginning."

Asked about allegations of torture or brainwashing, Miss Swift said: "When the students first came to the embassy, we were threatened with death, with pistols, with all sorts of methods to get us to open safes, to get us to talk."

The men interviewed said they had been generally well treated, well fed and attended to, when necessary, by doctors.

One of them, Mr Gregory Pervinger, said their student captors "treated us pretty fairly, better than I would have thought."

Mr Ahmad Azizi, Director of American Hostage Affairs in the Iranian Prime Minister's office, said after the screening that there was nothing in the interviews which matched contentions about mistreatment made by the United States government.

Washington contact: One of the three hostages held at the Iranian foreign ministry has disclosed that he maintained daily telephone contact with Washington during the first few months of captivity. Mr Victor Tomseth, interviewed last night by ABC television, said they had to be "very circumspect" in the content of the messages because they passed through the Iranians.

Charges signal tighter grip on Turkish press

Ankara, Jan 29.—Turkish military authorities have charged three journalists with violating a military ban on political activity. Newspaper sources said today that the move appeared to be an extension of attempts to control the press, although censorship has not been imposed.

Mr Ugur Mumcu, a columnist, and Mr Turhan Ilgaz, senior editor of the left-wing newsaper *Cumhuriyet* (Republic), and Mr Orhan Birgit, a columnist with the leftist *Dunya* (World) newspaper, face a maximum sentence of a year's imprisonment.

Four senior editors of Turkey's best-selling newspaper, *Hurriyet*, who were detained and questioned in Istanbul for several days have now been released.

A martial law court in Istanbul has sentenced four right-wing terrorists to 36 years each in prison for the premeditated murder of leftist opponents. The four belonged to the now-defunct extreme nationalist Action Party.—Reuter and AP.

Israeli troops evict Jewish squatters from Hebron

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 29

Israeli soldiers evicted 40 Jewish religious nationalists today from a three-storey building in Hebron. The building was taken over yesterday to strengthen the Jewish presence in the ancient city, which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims.

The squatters claimed their action had been in line with the policy of the Government, which last March voted to establish a Jewish presence including religious schools in Hebron. The Government was prevented from executing its decision because it appealed to the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, where there was an obvious majority against it. The scheme has been kept in abeyance.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, ordered troops to remove the squatters after they had rejected his appeals to leave voluntarily. The squatters put up passive resistance, forcing the soldiers to carry them out.

The building was said to have been a hostel in the Jewish quarters owned by a Hassidic sect until 1929 when Arabs massacred the Jews of Hebron in a pogrom. The leader of the sect, who emigrated to the United States, was said to have given a power of attorney to one of the would-be settlers to manage his property.

The settlers said that they had come to terms with Arabs who had been using the premises as workshops.

The Government rejected the squatters' arguments by stating that Hebron was under military administration and permission from the Army was needed for settlement.

Nine MPs start their tour at PLO's invitation

Beirut, Jan 29.—Nine British MPs arrived here from London today to begin a Middle East tour at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). A spokesman told reporters that the MPs, five Conservatives and four Labour, hoped to meet Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, if he returned in time from the Islamic summit conference in Saudi Arabia.

The MPs also hoped to meet Mr Abdulhalim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, in Damascus, King Husain of Jordan in Amman and Mr Bassam Shakaa, the Palestinian mayor of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Nablus during their tour. Mr Shakaa's legs were blown off by a car bomb explosion in Nablus last year and he was given artificial limbs during treatment in London. He returned to Nablus two weeks ago.—UPI.

Chinese try to form free trade unions

Peking, Jan 29. — Workers and students in central China have been trying to set up independent trade unions free of Communist Party control, according to the Wuhan newspaper *Yangtse River Daily*.

It said: "An extremely small minority of people who want to create fear in the present orderly situation are attempting to shake off the party's leadership and want to set up free trade unions and independent student unions.

"If these people are not acting from ulterior motives, then they are doing so out of supreme ignorance."

The newspaper admitted that the Communist Party had committed errors, particularly the Maoist Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, but said that they were inevitable in a country of a thousand million people.

It added that the Communist Party could not be replaced by any other party

American Commentary by Patrick Brogan

Key relationship for successful diplomacy

Washington

When he welcomed the hostages home on Tuesday, President Reagan said: "Let terrorists be aware that when the rules of international behaviour are violated, our policy will be one of swift and effective retribution."

Mr Alexander Haig, his Secretary of State, said the next day that the statement was "consciously ambiguous". It was the first of what will clearly be a series of statements setting out the way the new Government sees its role in the world.

The first point is that Mr Haig will be foreign minister *de facto* as well as *de jure*. Mr Richard Allen, the President's national security adviser, has been banished to the basement of the White House, back to the lair from which one of his predecessors, Dr Henry Kissinger, rose to take over the Government's foreign policy.

These symbolic things have great importance: Dr Kissinger and, more recently, Dr Brzezinski, occupied the large corner office on the ground floor of the White House west wing, within a few steps of the President's own offices. When President Ford purged his Government, at Christmas, 1975, Dr Kissinger was forced to give up the office and move permanently to the State Department.

Mr Haig (who used to occupy another corner office in the same building when he was President Nixon's Chief of Staff), well understands the importance of such things. He has prepared memoranda for Mr Reagan setting out the way foreign policy ought to be conducted, and he claims that his drafts have been prepared with the assistance of Mr Allen.

President and Secretary of State hope, therefore, that their foreign policy will be more consistent than was President Carter's which suffered from the ceaseless disagreements between Secretary of State and national security adviser. It all depends, of course, as in any government, upon the President's confidence in the Secretary.

Mr Reagan wants the United States to have a forceful foreign policy. This does not mean sending the Marines into every trouble spot but it does mean giving the appearance of firmness whenever important American interests are challenged. The new President is fortunate that the hostage crisis has been resolved. He can learn his way around the White House before that first challenge arises.

Naturally enough, to give merely the appearance of firmness is not enough, and the experience of the past few years suggests that firmness will have to be demonstrated as well. President Kennedy tried, and failed, at the Bay of Pigs, and tried again and succeeded spectacularly in the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

President Johnson showed his firmness of purpose in Vietnam, and American foreign policy has suffered the consequences ever since.

While waiting for the next crisis, and trusting Mr Haig's military instincts to see him through it, President Reagan must also prepare himself for the traditional test of wills with the Soviet Union.

It is alleged that Mr Khrushchev learnt to despise President Kennedy after meeting him in Vienna. It seems at least possible that the Russians formed the same opinion of President Carter when first he submitted new Salt proposals in 1977, and then withdrew them because the Russians rejected them so firmly.

For Mr Reagan, therefore, the question is how to set about restarting the Salt negotiations. This will be the first test of Mr Reagan's ability at sustained diplomacy.

Senators find Mr Donovan suitable for job

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 29

Mr Raymond Donovan, President Reagan's controversial choice to be Secretary of Labour, today secured the approval for his nomination of a majority of the Senate committee which has been investigating his suitability

But a number of Democrats on the Senate labour and human resources committee, including Senator Edward Kennedy, declined to support Mr Donovan because of deep concern over unproven allegations

The Labour Secretary-designate has been accused of various improprieties involving the New Jersey construction company which he used to run.

Moscow defends criticism of US in hostages crisis

Moscow, Jan 29.—The Soviet Union said today that its stand on the American hostages had been principled and that continued references to the now-resolved crisis were pretexts for strengthening United States forces in the Gulf area.

The Russian position was set out in a statement to Mr Jack Matlock, acting United States Chargé d'Affaires, who was called to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet statement, issued by Tass news agency, rejected as unfounded complaints by the United States State Department about Soviet behaviour during the 14 months the embassy hostages were held in Iran and said the Kremlin's stand had been "consistent".

After the hostages were seized by Islamic militants in November, 1979, Moscow vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Iran saying the seizure should be viewed in the context of past American involvement in Iranian affairs.

In the latter stages of negotiations leading to the hostages' release, Moscow Radio alleged that the United States was about to launch an armed attack against Iran.—Reuter.

Mr Marcos plans May election

From David Watts
Singapore, Jan 29

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines is proposing to hold a presidential election in May.

The lifting of martial law has brought renewed demands from the opposition for a direct election but Mr Marcos up to now has maintained that such an election might prove a farce if he were the only candidate or were faced by an embarrassingly weak opponent.

So far there is no indication of what candidate, if any, the opposition might put up. The obvious opponent would be Senator Benigno Aquino, now in the United States who indicates a desire to return.

But lawyers are understood to have warned him against coming back unless given cast-iron legal guarantees that he would not be re-arrested on the serious charges recently revived against him after terrorist bombings in Manila last year.

The first 12 days since the lifting of martial law, imposed eight years ago, have passed without serious disturbance. First to test the new atmosphere were students who rallied outside the United States Embassy to protest about the "farcical lifting of martial law" and "United States domination of the Philippines". The police response was measured and there were no arrests as the demonstrators dispersed after 30 minutes.

But the students, like the rest of the population, know that despite the issue of Proclamation 2045, which officially ended martial law, the President's powers to detain anyone he considers subversive are virtually unaltered. The same proclamations made under martial law can be made under the 1973 constitution.

All Mr Marcos's laws and declarations under martial law remain in force until specifically rescinded

Martial law, however, will be retained in the southern parts of the country faced with insurrection by the Moro National Liberation Front

Perhaps more significant in the long term, than the lifting of martial law was the declaration by Mr Marcos last Friday that anyone was free to publish a newspaper without obtaining a licence from the National Media Council.

The old-guard moderate opposition to Mr Marcos personified by the Laurel family, has already said that the starting of a newspaper will be a principal test of the sincerity of the President's new stance. The second will be the holding of public rallies by the opposition.

But, as Mr Marcos has already said in jest, anyone starting a new newspaper would probably have trouble getting both newsprint and advertising. Newsprint supplies are controlled by the Government and, with many of the leading businesses owned or influenced by President Marcos's friends and relations, there is unlikely to be much advertising available.

Problems apart, however, the principle has been established and once the public press is open to ownership by other personalities it seems likely that the political process in the Philippines will find new vigour.



Zimbabwe Army used as means to disband ex-guerrillas

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Jan 29

Pressure has been put on the Zimbabwe Government to disclose information on an issue that is both its main priority and its most sensitive problem—the process of integrating former guerrillas in the national Army.

MPs of the Rhodesian Front yesterday asked Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, searching questions about the final size of the Army, its composition and maintenance costs.

While declining to state figures, Mr Mugabe said the size of the Army was still the subject of discussion and repeated his pledge that every trained former guerrilla who opted to join the Army would be absorbed.

At a press conference two weeks ago, Mr Mugabe announced that the integration process was being accelerated to bring 24,000 former Zipra and Zanla guerrillas into the Army between now and August.

The announcement attracted little attention at the time as it came on the heels of the Cabinet reshuffle in which Mr Joshua Nkomo, Mr Mugabe's coalition partner and the leader of the Zipra force, was demoted.

Between June and December of last year, about 9,000 former guerrillas were integrated to form nine battalions by the so-called "sausage machine" approach adopted by the British Miliary Advisory and Training Team, which is running the project.

Military sources express considerable satisfaction at the performance of those battalions. Some of these have been deployed in action against dissident gangs and have been prepared, when necessary, to open fire on their former comrades.

But tens of thousands of men remain in the ceasefire assembly points, where they have been kicking their heels for more than a year. In townships around Salisbury and Bulawayo, and on agricultural projects, they have refused to give up their weapons.

It appears that the Government, being unwilling or unable to force the issue, has now decided to move them into the Army as soon as possible.

The main question hanging over the eercise is how many men are still to be integrated as the accepted estimate of a total of 35,000 Zipra and Zanla guerrillas, made after the men had reported to the assembly points last year, is almost certainly too low.

An accurate assessment is hampered by the scattered distribution of the men and the fact that many guerrillas remain outside the country where they trained during the war of independence. But military sources acknowledge privately that the earlier estimate is too low and one reliable source puts the number who will have to be absorbed into the Army at 50,000.

At present, military planners expect to have by August an Army comprising 33,000 former guerrillas and three battalions formed mainly from the former Rhodesian security forces. The planners will then take stock of the number of former guerrillas still to be incorporated.

The accelerated integration programme, which started earlier this month, calls for the formation of three battalions a month. This is likely to test severely the resources of the British advisory team.

Botha hopes hinge on nominations for poll

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 29

Nomination day for the April general election, set for March 28, is seen by observers in Johannesburg as being almost as important as the election itself.

With a large majority for the ruling National Party already assured, the main point to be decided by the election will be the political balance within the party's caucus.

Until recently the *Verkramptes* (conservatives) slightly outnumbered the *Verligtes* (reformists), which was why, it is said, Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, felt constrained from pushing ahead with his moderately reformist policies affecting Coloureds and urban blacks.

By holding an election in April, he hopes to swing the balance in the caucus in his favour.

Nomination of candidates takes place on a provincial and not a national level. The *Verligtes* fear that in the Transvaal, the biggest and most conservative of tho four provinces, the provincial leader, Dr Andries Treurnicht, the Minister of State Administration, may try to ensure the nomination of *Verkrampte* candidates where possible. As virtually all National Party candidates in the Transvaal are certain to be elected, this could mean that Mr Botha would still find himself confronted by a powerful right-wing group within the caucus after the election.

However, Dr Treurnicht is himself being challenged by Mr Jaap Marais, the leader of the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party, who has announced that he will contest Dr Treurnicht's Waterburg seat. Dr Treurnicht may therefore seek anothe constituency.

Mrs Helen Suzman, the opposition MP and outspoken critic of the Government who has represented the Houghton constituency of Johannesburg since 1953, has announced that she will be standing again for Parliament. Her constituents feared she might decide to retire this year.

'Keystone Cops' regime wins some confidence from bankers

Sergeants begin to learn how to run Liberia

By Gregory Jaynes
Monrovia

It has been nine months since 17 non-commissioned officers in the Liberian Army rose up from their tumbledown, tin-on-tin barracks on a beach below the Executive Mansion, shot and bayoneted President William Tolbert and took over the Government without half a notion of how to run a country.

"If it weren't for the bloodshed and the enormous economic problems", Mr Amos Dawson, the dean of Liberia College, said recently, "you could characterize a lot of what has happened as amusing". Moreover, a high civilian official in the new revolutionary Government said: "To cope, you have to regard a lot of what goes on as comic."

The man who became Liberia's leader after the coup, the twentieth head of state that the nation has had since it was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, is Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, who has a secondary-school education and was trained two years ago by a United States special forces unit.

He became Liberia's chief executive on April 12 last year, not because he aspired to the job, but merely because he was the ranking officer involved in Tolbert's assassination. Sergeant Doe, seven lower-ranking sergeants, eight corporals and two privates became the Government of Liberia, known as the People's Redemption Council.

The soldiers gave as their reasons for the coup more than a century of domination by the descendants of the freed slaves who set up the oldest republic in Africa, corruption by the Tolbert Government and economic deprivation of the 1.8 million Liberians at the hands of the 90,000 Americo-Liberians.

Sergeant Doe increased the pay of the lowest-ranking soldiers from $75 (£31) to $250 a month and also gave increases to higher-paid officers and to civil servants. He promised to hold down the price of petrol and rice, a staple. Almost a year to the day before the coup, there had been bloody riots over an increase in the price of rice.

The 28-year-old, modest head of state eschewed his predecessor's West German limousine, first in favour of a Chevrolet and later a Honda Civic. His illiterate wife, Nancy, the mother of his two children, started bringing hot lunches to his office.

The learning process began. First the soldiers, most of them in their 20s, learnt that the Government had $5m in the central bank and that it owed $700m in foreign debts. A former Finance Minister under Tolbert, an adviser to the revolutionary Government before leaving to live in the United States, endeavoured to explain delicately to the sergeant that he had to raise the price of petrol.

Initially, Sergeant Doe held to his promise to freeze prices. Exasperated, the financial adviser finally said: "You don't sign this paper, country go blooey." The sergeant signed. Petrol prices have doubled, to more than $2 a gallon.

For a while it seemed to Liberia's educated elite that the country was being run by the "Keystone Cops." The head of state threatened the national soccer team with imprisonment if it did not win a match with Gambia. The match ended in a tie.

About 700 civil servants were jailed but most were freed within a few days and charged $8.50 for each day of their incarceration, $3.50 for a light bulb and $5 for water.

Corporals used their guns instead of their tongues to resolve arguments. A vast although undisclosed number of skilled Liberians emigrated.

The military took over many of the smart houses in Monrovia. They took the screens off *the windows of the house that* had belonged to Charles Cecil Dennis, the former Foreign Minister, who had been executed. The next-door neighbour asked why. "To let the chickens in, of course," a corporal said.

The People's Redemption Council wrecked so many cars that it had to impose a rule on itself: wreck one and the Government buys you a replacement; wreck two and you buy your own.

[In the latest incident, the newly promoted Lieutenant-Colonel Fallah Varney, aged 23, secretary-general of the council, was killed this week in a car crash.]

Ever so slowly, though, the Redemption Council appears to be learning how to govern: "They have learnt what they don't know", said a bank manager *who asked that his name* and his nationality not be disclosed. Diplomats say that Sergeant Doe has become much more aware of his responsibilities, that he is asserting himself more and that he has cut back the instances in which soldiers get out of line.

Moreover, western diplomats say, the sergeant himself at last has a grasp of how tenuous Liberia's economy is, although not much of an idea of how to stabilize it beyond seeking loans.

The nation's monthly revenue, mostly from iron ore and rubber, is about $17m. Its monthly expenditures are about $30m, including $7m in debt repayments. Last month Liberia barely avoided bankruptcy with a hastily assembled United States emergency grant of $7m. This month four foreign banks managed to put together a $4m loan to get the Government over the hump.

To his credit, Sergeant Doe has taken some steps that have brought him a degree of confidence from international bankers. He has told Government agencies that they cannot ask for any additional money

He has also frozen Government hiring. This month, the Government will start making deductions for mandatory national savings bonds from all salaried employees. The bonds are expected to raise a quick $50m. They are to be paid back to the employees, with interest, in five years. The policies helped persuade the International Monetary Fund to provide Liberia with $85m

Sergeant Doe reportedly said that he would like nothing better than to return Liberia to civilian rule, but that he wanted to pull the country out of its economic mess first.

"I want you to talk to the master sergeant," Mr George Boley, executive assistant to the head of state, said to an American correspondent recently. "I want you to see we are not nincompoops. And I want you to see the barracks. The reason the soldiers are in town is they don't want to be in the barracks. No water at all or muddy water. Their children have diarrhoea

As it turned out, Sergeant *Doe had a cold. When a journa*list got into his office, tape recorder in hand, the sergeant said: "Cut the tape. Cut it." Then he explained that he would like to chat for two hours, but felt too ill to talk for one minute. The interview was over.—New York Times News Service.



Master Sergeant Doe: More aware of his responsibilities.

Assam oil resumes flowing to all India

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Jan 29

The blockade of Assamese oil has been ended after 13 months. The restoration of supplies to the rest of India seems to mark a significant change in Assam's *troubled social and political* climate.

The stopping of oil supplies was the most important and damaging of the sanctions applied by student agitators in their long struggle against the central Government.

Other raw materials, like jute and timber, were stopped from leaving Assam, in a virtual rebellion by the students against the Delhi Government.

The trouble came to a head when the Assamese demanded that Bengali immigrants into their state should be repatriated, claiming that they were being swamped by the newcomers. But their campaign against the people they have always termed "foreigners" also has its roots in a number of grievances. For many years the Assamese have felt themselves neglected by the central Govrnment.

The agitation attracted widespread public support in the state last year and led to violence and bloodshed. Disorder and the loss of oil supplies (Assam provides more than a third of India's domestic oil production) created a problem for the Government.

The Government has avoided direct confrontation with the agitators and has sought to bring the trouble to an end through talks and by allowing the passage of time to cool the agitation.

An army operation last November to flush stagnating oil out of pipelines running *from the Assamese oil fields to* a refinery in Bihar state was carried out successfully and without violence.

Now, thousands of Oil India employees have been persuaded to go back to work. They have been warned that they are risking their jobs

The political atmosphere is, however, still unsettled.

South African troops 'posing as terrorists'

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

South African military operations in southern Angola are not only being carried out by regular forces, but also by covert units posing as guerrillas, it was alleged yesterday. The undercover attacks were aimed against the local population as much as Swapo.

Reports by a British mercenary, who claimed to have taken part in terrorist action with the covert South African forces, were given on ITV last night and in *The Guardian*.

Rejecting the reports as an attempt to commercialize a fabricated story, the South African Embassy in London said last night that no value could be attached to the allegations.

The policy of South African Defence Forces, it was stated, was to avoid Angolan troops and civilians, while tracking down and eliminating Swapo gangs based in Angola. Angolan forces had been repeatedly warned of the consequences, if they became involved in clashes, the embassy said.

While not commenting directly on the reports, the Foreign Office said that the British Government continued to urge restraint on all sides. "We cannot condone any such activities by South African forces in Angola and we of course condemn any such activities by mercenaries", a statement said. The reports emphasized the urgent need to reach a negotiated settlement on Namibia.

"One-sided report": A South African military spokesman said he was not prepared to attach any value or even comment on "the allegations of the self-acknowledged deserter, who is obviously trying to commercialize on these allegations".

While conceding that South Africa crossed the Angolan border during "follow-up or hot pursuit operations", he said that these actions were aimed against Swapo and not the Angolans.

South Africa had repeatedly stated that it was not at war with Angola and tried to avoid Angolan troops while tracking down Swapo, he said. It was strange that the television company responsible for the report was prepared to transmit "such a one-sided report while the whole world was aware of the murders, landmine explosions and kidnappings of innocent and unarmed people in Ovambo".

Flood toll rises above 120 at Laingsburg

Cape Town, Jan 29.—Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, flew to Laingsburg today to survey the damage caused by Monday's flood and watch the relief efforts.

The trip came as another body was recovered, bringing the known death toll to 15 people. Another 105 people are missing and believed to be dead.

Mr Botha, who arrived by helicopter, was met by town officials —UPI.

Train drops into river killing 11

East London, South Africa, Jan 29.—A passenger train which jumped the tracks at it passed over a bridge early today, plunged into the shallow Kei river, in Cape Province, killing at least 11 people and injuring more than 100. All the victims were black.

Ten hours after the crash rescue workers were still trying to release passengers —UPI.

Nigerian MPs screened by riot police

From Our Correspondent
Lagos, Jan 29

A special joint sesion of the Nigerian Parliament began in Lagos today with strict security. Armed guards ringed the building blocking access and riot police were reported to be screening the legislators inside

This came after scenes of violence and unparliamentary behaviour yesterday when the joint sitting was first attempted.

It has been convened to resolve radical differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives over President Shagari's revenue alocation Bill. This seeks to establish new principles on which all revenue is to be divided between the Federal Government, the 19 state governments and more than 300 local governments.

Black workers forfeit jobs in strike over pensions

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Jan 29

About 1,500 black workers at the Firestone factory in Port Elizabeth have lost their jobs as a result of a strike over pensions.

The management said they had dismissed themselves because they failed to turn up for two shifts yesterday and one this morning. In an ultimatum issued yesterday, the company said that workers who did not report for duty would be considered to have resigned. Only about 30 turned up.

The workers, who started their strike at the beginning of this week, have refused to accept their dismissal, and have gathered for the past two days on wasteland outside the plant.

The dispute was sparked off by opposition to new pensions legislation proposed by the government, under which employees may not withdraw their pension money until they are aged 65.

Yesterday the government exempted Firestone from the proposed legislation, but the workers say they will not go back until their pension money has been paid. The earliest that can take place is February 11. "We do not trust either the government or the management", Mr Welcome Vimbi, leader of the workers' negotiating committee stated.

Other grievances include pay differentials between unskilled white and semi-skilled black workers and dissatisfaction with the liaison committee composed of workers and management which the workers have rejected as a "stooge" organization.

Inquiry demanded into lost ferry

Jakarta, Jan 29.—Indonesian members of Parliament have called ofr an investigation into the sinking of the ferry Tampomas II, which went down on Tuesday with the loss of more than 400 passengers and crew. There have been accusations of corruption, lack of safety measures and incompetence in the rescue operation.

The call came after officials admitted that the ship was unable to send any distres signals when it caught fire in the Java Sea two days before sinking. Mr Rusmin Nuryadin, the Minister for Communications was also urged to resign.

The Tampomas II sent no distress signals until another ship belonging to the Pelni National Shipping Company arrived on the scene by chance only seven hours before it sank.

Latest official figures said that 669 people had been rescued. A further 467 were said to be either dead or missing, but critics believe that this figure could be much higher because of the alleged practice of some Pelni officials of selling unauthorized tickets and pocketing the fares, with the result that ships are loaded far *beyond the permitted maximum* capacity.

Other doubts were raised over the purchase of the 6,139-ton ship seven months ago for $8.3m (£8.3m) from the Japanese Komodo Marine company, which MPs alleged had declared it unfit for use.

Questions were asked in Parliament when the Tampomas II had engine trouble on its first voyage under the Indonesian flag after it had been bought for Pelni by the Merchant Fleet Development Agency (Pann).

The controversy over the sinking was increased by a newspaper report that the captain of the Tampomas II had warned officials *his ship* was being overworked.

The newspaper *Sinar Harapan* reported that Captain Abdul Rivai had said in an interview before the disaster that the Pelni Company maintained the ship in bad condition and ran it too hard.

"Although I complained, Pelni management kept on pushing to have the journey concluded in eight days," Captain Rivai said.

Pelni officials rejected the *charges* and said the ship was "in perfect condition at the moment the accident occurred."

The search for survivors of the sinking was called off today because of monsoon storms. "With such bad weather, we now have only very little hope to find any more survivors," a spoesman for the search operation said.

First reports from the survivors indicated that the fire broke out early on Monday on the lower deck and quickly spread to the engine room. The ship was 200 miles from Ujung Pandang, the nearest port and its destination.

Bad weather hampered rescue operations and hundreds of passengers remained on board. *On Tuesday an explosion ripped* through the ship and the fire spread.

Two passengers said the crew distributed life jackets and people began jumping overboard as the heat became intolerable. "A large number of people must have perished in the fire or becouse of the heat and smoke which became progressively unbearable," a member of the crew said.—Agence France-Presse, UPI.

FOREIGN REPORT

Violence from the right and left terrorizes Guatemala

Once a day on average a death threat is telephoned to Señor Vinicio Cerezo, secretary-general of the leftist Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party, and to his wife and their four children.

Señor Cerezo, party leader since 1976, rarely leaves his home in a working class district of Guatemala City. Three bodyguards, rifles on their shoulders and pistols at their hips, watch over the family constantly. Other armed men take the children to school and stay with them until they are safely home again.

Since last May 27 the opposition parties in Guatemala have, as Señor Cerezo calmly puts it, "lost 39 prominent officials", all of them murdered.

On August 28 last year, Señor Sergio Cornelio Sanchez Roche, the mayor of the Pacific port of Champerico, drove into an ambush on the road to Retalhuleu.

Twenty-five bullet holes were counted in his body after the gunmen had left him for dead, but Señor Sanchez Roche survived and went back to work on November 3, minus an eye.

Within a matter of days the mayor had received a letter congratulating him on his recovery. There was a postscript, which read: "If within 48 hours of receiving this warning you still have not resigned as mayor, we'll visit you again and this time there will be no escape."

It was signed "PGT", the initials of the communist Guatemalan Workers' Party. Señor Sanchez Roche is still in office.

Father José Maria Ruiz Furlan is parish priest of the Hermano Pedro de San José de Bethancourt church in Zone 5, one of the poorest districts of Guatemala City.

He stood for the office of city mayor in 1974 and 1978 and claims he was cheated out of victory on both occasions. Early last year his brother, José Fernando, a colonel in the Guatemalan Army was assassinated, "because", Father Ruiz Furlan says, "he knew too much".

The priest, a short, dark-haired man, is yet another regular recipient of threats against his life, he says. Every time he steps into the street he wears a disguise.

Many people are willing to express their views on who is doing all the killing. Few are prepared to go on record.

In 1980 alone, right-wing terrorists killed an estimated 2,000 people, while terrorism from the left, going back about 20 years, continued unabated. Rightists will sometimes kill a dozen people at a time while the left carefully picks its targets.

One of them, Mario Rivas Montes, conservative editor of the daily newspaper *El Imparcial* was shot dead on August 5 apparently in reprisal for the deaths of left-wing journalists.

The right blames international communism for trying to overthrow the government of General Romero Lucas Garcia, in power since 1978. But anybody who criticizes the Government is inevitably dubbed a communist and is therefore exposed to danger from the country's "death squads".

The overwhelming anti-communism in Guatemala's government and business circles goes back to 1954, when the United States helped to oust the reformist government of President Jacobo Arbaenz Guzman, who had encouraged the growth of peasant and worker unions and was, as a result, branded a communist.

The fear of communism has grown since the triumph of the Sandinista-led revolution in nearby Nicaragua in July, 1979.

The man installed in Señor Arbaenz Guzman's place was Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, who ordered the killing of hundreds of the deposed President's followers and the breaking up of worker and peasant organizations.

In the years that followed, leftist guerrillas became more and more active, and in 1968 they kidnapped and murdered John Mein, the United States Ambassador, and two American military attachés.

Count Karlvon Spreti, the West German Ambassador, was similarly executed in April 1979. The country's political violence claimed 20,000 victims between 1966 and 1974, according to Amnesty International.

While virtually no independent trade union activity was permitted during the government of President Carlos Arana (1970-1974), concerted efforts were made to form syndicates thereafter.

As a result, scores of labour leaders have been murdered. Attempts to form political parties opposed to the Government likewise have met with violence.

Manuel Colom Argueta, a former Guatemala City mayor, struggled for six years to get his social democrat United Revolutionary Front registered. Early in 1979, registration of the 19-year-old party was authorized. A week later Colom Argueta was murdered.

Alberto Fuentes Mohr, a former Foreign Minister and head of the Democratic Socialist Party, had met the same fate two months before.

There are eight parties registered in Guatemala. The Communist Party is outlawed. The extreme right wing is represented by such parties as the National Liberation Movement which says it stands for "organized violence".

"We are very limited in what we can do", said Señor Carlos Morales, secretary-general of the moderate United Revolutionary Front. "If we hold meetings, they (the right) think we are acting subversively, so people are terrified to work with us."

Señor Morales said many people believe the only way to achieve change is by force of arms. He said that many people with the mental capacity to help the country to progress had been killed. It would take years to replace them.

He added: "I don't think it's a matter of communism against anti-communism. It's a struggle by the right to defend its interests."

Guatemala, the most advanced Central American country industrially and in terms of agricultural progress, is populated by 7.2 million people, 50 per cent of them indigenous.

It is in the Indian communities where the four principal guerrilla groups are operating with the greatest effect. The four are: the Guerrilla Army of the Poor; the Organization of People in Arms; the Rebel Armed Forces; and the military faction of the Guatemalan Workers' Party.

Señor Jorge Garcia Granados, private secretary of President Lucas Garcia and general secretary of the Revolutionary Party, said in an interview: "I would say the extreme left motivated all this violence. The extreme right, not wanting to lose its position, has reacted violently. In the middle are the majority of the people in Guatemala. . . .

"We know there is a lot to change in Guatemala, economically, socially and politically. We have changed over the years and we are trying to find solutions."

But leading government officials always deny the Government is linked to right-wing terrorism, although, as one man close to the President said: "It makes no sense for us (the Government) to destroy the extreme right. By doing so we would only leave ourselves exposed for a leftist takeover."

Stephen Downer

150 miles · BELMOPEN · BELIZE · CARIBBEAN SEA · MEXICO · GUATEMALA · GUATEMALA CITY · Retalhuleu · Champerico · HONDURAS · TEGUCIGALPA · EL SALVADOR · SAN SALVADOR · NICARAGUA · PACIFIC OCEAN · MANAGUA · Lago de Nicaragua

Israel switches from shekels to dollars

At a modest Valley Beach restaurant on the shores of Lake Kinneret, tourists arriving to sample the local speciality of fresh St Peter's fish are surprised to discover that all menu prices are quoted only in American dollars rather than Israel's own Biblically-inspired currency, the shekel.

The same embarrassing trend is noticeable in every part of the country. In Jerusalem, it is now the practice for domestic employees to insist on being paid in dollars, while in Tel Aviv, jewelry shops, art galleries, bars, restaurants and luxury hotels all quote prices in foreign currency.

At the same time, an increasing number of Israeli companies are finding it impractical to continue keeping their books in shekels. The managing director of one large Tel Aviv-based electronics firm which recently switched all its accounts to dollars said: "Using Israeli currency was like trying to find our way in the dark. All financial information, balance sheets, budgets and investment analyses had lost their meaning."

The dramatic switch from shekels to dollars is just one of many methods—both legal and illegal—being used by long-suffering Israeli citizens to cope with a rate of inflation which last year averaged 130 per cent. One result was to increase the purchase of foreign currency by a third in the last quarter of 1980.

Living with a monthly inflation rate higher than that experienced by many European countries in a year can have bizarre effects. One of the most damaging is to alter drastically normal consumer expectations, and thus further fuel the inflation.

"Israelis have become so accustomed to price rises that their reaction on hearing of an increase is often to stock up on the product. Their expectation—unhappily almost always correct—is that its price will soon increase again", an Israeli economist said.

Among the commonest ways of coping with what one newspaper recently described as "hyper-stagflation" are the extensive use of post-dated or unsupported cheques (recent statistics showed that one in every 10 Israeli cheques bounced), moonlighting, refusing to keep cash or current bank accounts and excessive purchases of durable consumer goods.

A perplexed American commentator recently noted that Israeli shops were doing a roaring trade in colour televisions—which, because of local taxes, retail at around £1,500 a set—although the Israel Broadcasting Corporation has not yet received permission to transmit regularly in colour.

The reason for the rush was that the sets were seen as a hedge against future price-rises. Apartments are also seen as good investments and they can cost up to three times the cost of equivalent accommodation in Britain.

Israel's runaway inflation has been accompanied by regular depreciation of the shekel (last year its value slumped 114 per cent in relation to the dollar), and a rash of jokes similar to the kind of wartime humour which blossomed during the Blitz.

Of the many inflation-related stories circulating, the current favourite concerns the relative cost of taking a bus or taxi to cover the same journey. "Which is cheaper?" asks the foreign tourist. "The taxi", replies the inflation-scarred Jerusalemite, "because with the bus, the fare has to be paid right away".

But despite the financial hardships and political demoralization of living with an inflation rate which gives every sign of being uncontrollable, Israeli citizens are protected by the most sophisticated form of index-linking developed anywhere.

Largely the product of hard-bargaining by the Histradut, the centralized trade union body, the system means that among those payments directly linked to the cost of living index are wages, savings, pensions, welfare insurance, government issued bonds and even rates of income tax.

Until recently, the system was regarded as sufficient to cushion most Israelis against the worst ravages of spiralling prices and a constantly eroding currency. But in the past three months there have been ominous signs that inflation has been increasing at such a pace that the linking has been unable to keep pace.

Matters will get worse if, as predicted by Professor Ezra Sadan, head of the Treasury planning unit, inflation exceeds 300 per cent inside the next 12 months unless there is a radical change in economic policy.

Political observers regard index linking as the main reason why Israel's democratic institutions have so far survived three-figure inflation unscathed. But economists single it out as the main reason why all efforts to get Israeli inflation under control have failed so conspicuously.

Christopher Walker

Canadian newspaper chains under attack

Newspaper chains in Canada are under attack, but whether they are being hurt at all is questionable. A three-man Royal Commission established last summer to study concentration of ownership in the print media is now into its second month of public hearings.

It has provided the focus for an unprecedented outpouring of public vitriol against the chains, especially the two largest—Thomson Newspapers and Southam Inc.

Yet the longer the commission sits, the more frequently questions are raised as to just where it is going; more precisely, whether it will come to grips with the complex issues it was set up to try to resolve.

Some observers are already writing the investigation off as an exercise in futility, before the commission is even halfway through its public hearings.

Mr Tom Kent, the commission chairman, dismisses such talk. "We are not the sort of people who would be prepared to do something if we thought it was a waste of time", he told a reporter after two days of hearings in Ottawa last month. "I'm far too busy for that."

Mr Kent, dean of administrative studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, a former civil servant and former editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and of *The Economist*, thought there was a "reasonable chance" of the commission coming up with recommendations that the Government will act upon.

The other commission members are Mr Laurent Picard, a former president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and Mr Borden Spears, former senior editor of *The Toronto Star*.

The Royal Commission was established after the closing on the same day, August 27, of the *Winnipeg Tribune*, owned by the Southam organization, and *The Ottawa Journal*, owned by Thomson.

The shutdowns left the Thomson-owned *Winnipeg Free Press* and the Southam-owned Ottawa *Citizen* without English-language competition in their respective market areas.

On the same day—known as "Black Wednesday" in the Canadian newspaper trade—Southam bought the *Vancouver Sun* from Thomson, giving itself total control in the Vancouver market, where it already owned the daily *Province*: and also bought out Thomson's one-third interest in the Montreal *Gazette*.

The effect of all these moves was to leave four of Canada's cities without English-language daily newspaper competition. The royal commission was the Government's response to the public outcry that followed. The commission is supposed to produce its report later this year.

Although Mr Kent has stipulated that "nobody is on trial" at the public hearings, it has been open season on the chains from the beginning. The feelings of the public are probably intensified by the realization that there is little likelihood of the *Journal* and the *Tribune* being brought back to life, no matter what the commission recommends.

A former editor of *The Ottawa Journal*, Mr I. Norman Smith, denounced what he called the "Bare-faced big business manipulations" of Thomson and Southam, and suggested that freedom of the press had been infringed as a result of their "deeds and dealings".

A New Democratic Party member of the Ontario legislature, Mrs Evelyn Gigantes, told the commission that executives of the two powerful newspaper groups "would be in gaol" if Canada had enforceable anti-combines laws. (A separate anti-combines investigation into the newspapers closings is under way.)

The commission has heard suggestions that the government established a system of loans to help ailing newspapers. Both the *Journal* and the *Tribune* were closed because they were losing money.

There has also been suggestions that the Government should launch its own newspaper chain—a kind of print CBC — to counteract the accelerating trend towards newspaper monopolies.

In Vancouver this week, the Vancouver-New Westminster Newspaper Guild urged the commission to recommend legislation requiring newspaper owners to give up "non-media interests".

Similar arguments were heard earlier in Winnipeg. They are directed chiefly at Thomson, which in addition to extensive newspaper holdings in Canada and abroad, also owns a stake in North Sea Oil and a string of department stores across Canada that carry on billions of dollars worth of business annually.

The chains themselves have yet to be heard from.

The commission's terms of reference are wide. Theoretically, it could recommend the break up of newspaper chains, which now own well over half of Canada's one hundred or so daily newspapers, including all but one or two of the largest ones. Few people expect the commissioners to go that far however.

John Best

Law Report January 29 1981 — House of Lords

Oil refinery nuisance: private Act a defence

Allen v Gulf Oil Refining Ltd
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Roskill

Where a private Act of Parliament authorized a multi-national oil company to acquire specific land in a rural area "for the construction of a refinery", the company could rely on the Act as statutory authority by way of a defence to any proceedings for nuisance resulting from the use and operation of the refinery, but only so far as the nuisance could be shown to be the inevitable result of erecting and operating a refinery.

The House of Lords, Lord Fraser dissenting, so held on a preliminary point of law in allowing an appeal from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce) ((1980) QB 156), which had held in favour of Mrs Elsie May Allen, of Waterston, Milford Haven, Dyfed, that Gulf Oil Refining Ltd could not rely on the Gulf Oil Refining Act, 1965, a private Act, as having authorized the construction and use of an oil refinery, as a defence to actions for damages for nuisance at common law caused by its use.

When the company raised the defence of "statutory authority" the Haverfordwest district registrar ordered that it be tried as a preliminary point of law, later framed by Mr Justice Kerr in terms set out in Lord Wilberforce's speech. Mr Justice May held that Gulf Oil could rely on the Act for the purposes of a plea of statutory authority as a defence in an action for nuisance. The Court of Appeal allowed Mrs Allen's appeal.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, Mr F. M. Ferris, QC, and Mr J. M. Henty for Gulf; Mr John Davies, QC, and Mr. Gordon Langley for Mrs Allen.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that the action was brought by an inhabitant of the small village of Waterston, complaining that Gulf Oil were committing a common law nuisance through the construction and operation of an oil refinery. Many other persons had brought similar actions. Gulf Oil had installed the refinery on land immediately adjoining the village and extending over more than 400 acres: it consisted of a vast complex of jetties on Milford Haven harbour, where the largest oil tankers could deliver crude oil, refining plant, pipes, pumping apparatus, storage tanks, a petrochemical plant, and a private railway with sidings which passed close to the village before connecting with the main line.

It was alleged that the operation of the refinery caused a nuisance by smell, noise and vibration; and at the present point in the action it must be assumed that the allegation was true.

Some of their Lordships had protested against the procedure of bringing points of law for preliminary decision except where the answer served the cause of justice. In the present case it did not. The question, inept as originally framed, was recast by Mr Justice Kerr into an improved form: "Can the defendants [Gulf Oil] rely on the Gulf Oil Refining Act, 1965, as having authorized the construction and operation of an oil refinery at Waterston . . . ?"

But both judges in the Court of Appeal and some of their Lordships found it either unintelligible or unanswerable. The result of the case must depend on the impact of detailed and complex findings of fact on principles of law which were themselves flexible. There were too many variables to admit of a clear cut solution in advance.

Both sides accepted that the question as framed by Mr Justice Kerr was incomplete and had endeavoured to recast it to give a workable indication of what was needed—a direction of law on which the trial judge could proceed. The recast formulation of the issue was whether Gulf Oil could rely on the Act as having authorized the construction and operation of an oil refinery at Waterston, seeking to rely on the Act as providing the defence of "statutory authority" to Mrs Allen's claims for nuisance arising out of the operation of the refinery in fact constructed and operated. Gulf Oil contended, in effect, that by reason of the Act any inevitable nuisance caused by the construction or operation of the refinery must be borne by Mrs Allen without compensation.

The case depended on the construction of the Act. It was now well settled that where Parliament by express direction or necessary implication had authorized the construction and use of an undertaking or works, that carried with it an authority to do what was authorized with immunity from any action based on nuisance, the right of action was taken away: *Hammersmith & City Railway Co v Brand* ((1869) LR 4 HL 171, 215). To that there was the qualification that the statutory powers were exercised without "negligence"—in the special sense of requiring the undertaker, as a condition of obtaining immunity from action, to conduct the operation with all reasonable regard and care for the interests of other persons. Within the same principle, immunity from action was withheld where the terms of the statute were permissive only, in which case the powers conferred must be exercised in strict conformity with private rights: *Metropolitan Asylum District v Hill* ((1881) 6 App Cas 193).

What was the scope of the statutory authority conferred in the present case? The Act was a private Act, promoted by Gulf Oil, no doubt mainly in their own commercial interests. To establish their projected refinery with its ancillary facilities, and to acquire the necessary land, they had to seek Parliament's assistance. So they necessarily had to satisfy Parliament that the powers they were seeking were in the interest of the public to whom Parliament was responsible. The case they proved, as the passing of the Act showed, was shown by the preamble. It recited "increasing public demand for [the company's] products in the United Kingdom" and that "it is *essential* that further facilities for the importation of crude oil and petroleum products *and for their refinement* should be available" (emphasis supplied). It proceeded to recite the company's intentions and what works it was expedient to empower the company to carry out. All that showed most clearly that Parliament considered it in the public interest that a *refinery*, not merely the works (jetties, etc), should be constructed on lands at Llanstadwell to be compulsorily acquired.

To show how that intention was to be carried out section 5 provided: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act the company may enter upon, take and use such of the lands delineated on the deposited plans . . . as it may require for the purpose of the authorized works or for the construction of a refinery in the parish of Llanstadwell . . . or for purposes ancillary thereto or connected therewith. (2) The powers of compulsory acquisition of land under this section shall cease after the expiration of three years from October 1, 1965." The lands in question were the specific lands shown with precise detail in the deposited plans.

His Lordship regarded that as an authority to construct and operate a refinery on the lands to be acquired which should be commensurate with the facilities for unloading (jetties for large tankers), the site of the lands to be acquired, and the discharging facilities to be provided by the railway lines. His Lordship emphasized the words "a refinery" because no authority was given or sought except in the indefinite form. But that there was authority to construct and operate a refinery seemed indisputable.

For Mrs Allen the curious argument was that the sections dealing with works specified in detail what was to be carried out in the way of construction of jetties and railway lines, like those conferred in the well known railway cases. By contrast, it was said, there was no authority, even implied, to construct or operate a refinery. There was nothing but power to acquire land. The construction of the refinery was left entirely to the promoters; they had carte blanche as to its size or nature: and therefore the intention must be that they must construct it with regard to private rights, as in the *Metropolitan Asylum* case.

That argument had remarkable consequences. If any person could establish a nuisance he or she would be entitled to an injunction. That might make it impossible for the refinery to be operated: it would leave Gulf Oil as owners and occupiers of land compulsorily acquired under the authority of the Act for the purpose of a refinery and which they could not use for any other purpose. Such consequences could only be accepted if they clearly flowed from the terms of the Act.

But his Lordship found that construction artificial. It was true that, while the Act gave detailed specification to the "works" it conspicuously did not define or specify the refinery even in general terms; and that might support an argument that that was left altogether outside the parliamentary authority. But that was answered by the decision of the House in *Manchester Corporation v Farnworth* ([1930] AC 171), where the statutory authority was simply, in general terms, for the erection of a generating station, without specification, but nevertheless it was held that, subject to the "negligence" exception, there could be "no action for nuisance caused by the making or doing of that thing" (the thing authorized) "if the nuisance is the inevitable result of the making or doing so authorized".

That described the situation in the present case. Though the Act of 1965 did not, as did the Act considered in the *Manchester* case, confer express authority to use or operate any refinery which might be installed on the site, the preamble referred to "refinement"—operation of the refinery—and authority to construct must carry authority to refine.

If his Lordship was right on that point, the position as regarded the action would be as follows. The plaintiff alleged a nuisance by smell, noise, vibration, etc. The facts on those matters were for her to prove. It was then for Gulf Oil to show, if they could, that it was impossible to construct and operate a refinery on the site, conforming with Parliament's intention, without creating a nuisance. Involved in that issue would be the point that the establishment of an oil refinery, etc, was bound to involve some alteration of the environment and so of the standard of amenity and comfort which neighbouring occupiers might expect. To the extent that the environment had been changed from that of a peaceful unpolluted countryside to an industrial complex, Parliament must be taken to have authorized it.

But the statutory authority extended beyond merely authorizing a change in the environment and an alteration of standard. It conferred immunity against proceedings for any nuisance which could be shown (the burden being on Gulf Oil) to be the inevitable result of erecting a refinery on the site—not the existing but any refinery—however carefully and with however great a regard for the adjoining occupiers' interest it was sited, constructed and operated. The plaintiff had a remedy only to the extent that the actual nuisance exceeded that for which immunity was conferred.

His Lordship would respond in that sense to the question asked, rather than in the purely negative sense favoured by the Court of Appeal, and to that extent would allow the appeal.

LORD KEITH, dissenting, was unable to accept Gulf Oil's view of the effect of section 5(1) such that any nuisance which was the inevitable result of operating "a refinery" was not actionable.

His Lordship could not find any necessary implication that Parliament intended to take away the private right of individuals in a provision the operative purpose and effect of which merely was to confer powers of compulsory purchase. Any compulsory purchase powers must be conferred for a specific purpose. The mere mention of that purpose in the conferment of the powers was not sufficient in itself to infer an intention to authorize any particular activity on the acquired land which might infringe the rights of others. The position would have been different if section 5(1) had specifically authorized Gulf Oil to use a refinery on the site in question, as in the *Manchester Corporation* case, where it was held that the corporation were liable only for such nuisance as could not be prevented by the use of due diligence. The making of a certain thing was different from the doing of a certain thing. If in the *Manchester* case Parliament had not specifically authorized the corporation "to work and use" the power station, it did not appear that their doing so would have been protected in any way.

The defence of statutory authority was well known. Gulf Oil might be taken to have had access to the best legal advice in connexion with the promotion of their private Act. They failed to include in it any reference to authority to operate, work or use a refinery. If they had done so, Parliament might well have insisted on provisions for compensation. His Lordship was not prepared to hold that section 5(1) was susceptible of the necessary implication contended for by Gulf Oil. He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Roskill delivered speeches concurring in allowing the appeal.

Solicitors: Hextall Erskine & Co for Cartwrights, Bristol; Caloe Easton for Price & Kelway, Milford Haven.

Lump sum payment reduced by £75,000

Page v Page
Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Dunn and Mr Justice Wood

An order directing a husband to pay his 78-year-old wife a lump sum of £165,000, as being the sum required to bring her capital up to one half of the total assets of the parties, was held by the Court of Appeal to be wrong in principle.

Their Lordships were giving reasons for allowing in December an appeal by the husband, Mr Edwin Leslie Page, of Solihull, Birmingham, from Mr Justice Bush.

Section 25(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, provides: "It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its powers under section 23(1)(a) (b) or (c) or 24 above in relation to a party to [a] marriage and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the following matters, that is to say—(a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future; (b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future; (c) the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the marriage; (d) the age of each party to the marriage and the duration of the marriage; (e) any physical or mental disability of either of the parties to the marriage; (f) the contributions made by each of the parties to the welfare of the family, including any contribution made by looking after the home or caring for the family; (g) in the case of proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriage, the value to either of the parties to the marriage of any benefit (for example, a pension) which, by reason of the dissolution or annulment of the marriage, that party will lose the chance of acquiring; and so to exercise those powers as to place the parties, so far as it is practicable and, having regard to their conduct, just to do so, in the financial position in which they would have been if the marriage had not broken down and each had properly discharged his or her financial obligations and responsibilities towards the other."

Mr Swinton Thomas, QC, and Mr John Mitting for the husband; Mr B. A. Farrer, QC, Mr D. R. D. Hamilton and Miss Sybil Thomas for the wife.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the order for payment of £165,000 was made in final satisfaction of all the wife's financial claims. The figure was arrived at by calculating the sum required to bring the wife's capital up to half of the assets of the parties. The judge, though he briefly referred to the provisions of section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, seemed to have dealt with the matter mainly on the arithmetical basis of ascertaining the value of the assets of the parties and then deciding on the appropriate denominator, which he took as 2. He was obviously much influenced by the fact that about the time when the wife filed her petition, the husband transferred £124,000 to a Mrs R, the husband's secretary, who subsequently removed it out of the jurisdiction to the Isle of Man.

The sum was too high. The reason for dividing the assets equally was simply that it would be unjust to give the wife less, but it was clear from the judgment that the judge was comparing and contrasting her position with that of Mrs R and, in effect, saying that if Mrs R had had £124,000 the wife should get more. The husband's conduct in regard to the transfer of the sum was a highly relevant consideration, but the judge must have overlooked the fact that the husband had, very wisely, agreed that that sum should be treated as still part of his assets for the purpose of the case and, therefore, was included in the £359,137 upon which the judge based his calculation.

The judge did not exercise his discretion in accordance with section 25. There was nothing in the section which lent any support to the arithmetical approach to such cases, although in *Wachtel v Wachtel* ([1973] Fam 72), the Court of Appeal suggested that the "one third rule" provided a convenient starting point. The court must perform its duties under section 25 and consider each of the factors therein set out, bearing in mind the result of applying the one third rule.

Evidence put before the judge was deficient in some respects. The wife could not attend the hearing because she was in hospital, and little was known of her wishes, intentions, and ability to lead an independent life.

The parties married in 1937 and lived together until 1978. They had two children, both now grown up. In 1958 he set up in business on his own account, and in 1965 he bought a foundry business for £5,000, placing 90 per cent of the shares in his name and 10 per cent in the wife's name.

In 1976 until when the marriage seemed to have been quite happy, Mrs R, aged about 35, came to stay as a guest for a short time. She stayed on until the wife could stand it no more and left in 1978. She obtained a decree nisi in April, 1979. Now she was living with her daughter on a very modest amount.

The first factor under section 25 was the resources of the parties. The judge assessed the husbands capital at £359,137. His income was about £20,000. The wife's capital was about £29,000, and her income, £2,750.

On those figures there was enough capital to provide adequately for both of them in their old age. He was 74, and she 78. Consequently, when considering the next factor—needs and obligations of each party—a broad view could be taken. In a case such as the present "needs" could be regarded as equivalent to "reasonable requirements," taking into account the other factors such as age, health, length of marriage and standard of living.

Both parties needed an adequate and secure income which must come from investments, and access to capital to set up separate homes, or as a contingency fund to make up any shortfall in income or to meet the extra cost of illness and nursing care.

At that point, the deficiences in the evidence became important. Their Lordships did not know what the wife proposed to do about a home or whether she would be physically able to live alone. However, with the available resources it was reasonable to make provision for her to be able to afford to be comfortable if she had to live in a nursing home. She would, therefore, require a substantial capital sum. The relationship between the parties was so embitetered that periodical payments were to be avoided.

Accordingly the case was one for a lump sum provision and no periodical payments. The wife agreed in principle with that view.

It was not legitimate, however, under section 25 to take into account, as the judge did, the wife's wish to be in a position to make provision by will for her adult children who were in no way dependent on their parents or either of them.

The problem, therefore, was to decide the size of the lump sum, taking into account all the section 25 factors, including the contribution each had made to the welfare of the family.

Forty years of marriage represented a large contribution by the wife, and the husband too; but the present case was not one where the wife had been actively engaged in the husband's business either by working in it or by providing capital, though she must have helped him to save money to invest in his business activities. She had not, in that sense, "earned" a share in the assets which in some cases gave the wife a considerable stake in them.

Doing the best he could to find an appropriate figure, his Lordship thought that the lump sum should be £90,000. With her own capital that would provide about £120,000 for the wife. That would be enough to enable her to buy a home or, if necessary, afford reasonable medical and nursing care. It was not possible to calculate those sums; all one could do was to take hypothetical figures and try them out until one found a figure which fitted the facts of the case.

The figure of £90,000, by coincidence, was approximately the sum required to give the wife one third of the assets but the ages of the parties, the wife's state of health, and the role played by Mrs R made the present case a wholly exceptional case.

The appeal should be allowed and the lump sum reduced to £90,000.

LORD JUSTICE DUNN, agreeing, said that the correct approach to capital provision in a case like the present was for the court to consider each of the matters set out in section 25. The weight to be attached to each would vary from case to case, but the most significant were usually the financially resources of the husband, *including* any obligations of his other than to the wife, and the reasonable requirements of the wife.

Possible dispositions by will were not relevant matters for consideration under section 25. The scheme of the Act was to give the court jurisdiction to make orders for the benefit of wives and dependent children. The financial needs of a wife did not extend to the wish to be provided with funds in order to leave them to children or any other beneficiary.

Mr Justice Wood delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ryland Martineau & Co, Birmingham; Price Atkins, Solihull.

Sale shoes not stolen

Kaur v Chief Constable for Hampshire
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Lloyd

A woman who bought a pair of shoes in a sale, one shoe marked £4.99 and the other £6.99, and took them to the cashier without concealing either price label, and when asked for the lower price duly paid it, was held by the Divisional Court not to be guilty of theft.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by Miss Dip Kaur, unemployed, of Onslow Road, Southampton, against her conviction by Southampton justices of theft contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968.

Mr Stephen Alexander for the defendant; Mr Nigel Mylne for the prosecutor.

LORD LANE said that the defendant selected the pair of shoes from the £6.99 rack. When she left the store after paying she was stopped by a store detective and later charged with theft.

The justices found that the cashier had no authority to accept on behalf of the retailer an offer to buy the shoes for £4.99 and that as the defendant knew that £4.99 was not the correct price the contract was void. As the transaction did not convey ownership she had appropriated the property of the store.

The defendant argued that she had not done anything in law that was capable of amounting to appropriation of the shoes. On payment the shoes had become her property and thereafter they could not be stolen by her.

It was argued for the prosecutor that although the defendant made payment there was never a contract. The prosecutor before the justices, as before their Lordships, relied on *Hartog v Colin* ([1939] 3 All ER 566), and the justices followed that case.

The justices were in error. The cashier had the authority to sell shoes for the price on the ticket. The fact that she chose the lower price did not alter her authority. There was no obtaining by deception. It had to be theft or nothing. The court should be astute not to find theft where it would be straining the language and where an ordinary person would not regard the act to be theft.

The question was whether the ownership of the shoes passed to the defendant or whether the contract was void for mistake. The mistake here was the cashier's, induced by the price label. This was not a mistake as to identity, and in his Lordship's view it was not the sort of mistake that was so fundamental as to avoid the contract. The contract was voidable and as it had not been avoided by the time the defendant left the store the prosecutor had failed to prove the case. Ownership passed on payment, so the defendant could not appropriate the goods as she owned them.

For that reason his Lordship would allow the appeal and quash the conviction.

Mr Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Plumer Price & Beswick, Southampton; Mr R. N. Bourne, Winchester.

In *Schering Chemicals Ltd v Falkman Ltd and Others* (January 28) Mr Alan Bishop (instructed by Rolter Zucker) represented Falkman Ltd, which withdrew, by agreement, after three days of the appeal hearing.

The headline in *Regina v Patel* (January 29) should have read "Proving Home Office immigrants records".

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Concern over impact on UK car makers of Japanese factory project

House of Commons

The announcement by Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry, that the Government warmly welcomed the proposal by Nissan of Japan to build a car plant in the United Kingdom, subject to a feasibility study, was not matched by a similar welcome from the Opposition.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman for industry, said that it might have a detrimental effect on the Leyland-Honda deal and said that some of Leyland management had been dismayed.

Mr Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C) said that the Nissan motor company had approached the Government to seek its views upon the company's intention, subject to a feasibility study, to establish a substantial car-manufacturing operation in the United Kingdom.

The Government has given a warm welcome to Nissan's proposal, (he said) and is prepared in principle to give them its approval and support.

Nissan's proposals are to start building a car-manufacturing plant, including an engine-manufacturing facility, in a development area or special development area in 1982 and to begin production at the end of 1984, reaching the full figure of 200,000 cars a year by 1986.

It is Nissan's intention to achieve a very high local content involving United Kingdom and other EEC suppliers; the local content at the start of production would be 60 per cent and the company's objective would be to increase this to 80 per cent as soon as practicable after full production is reached. The company is confident of achieving a high level of exports from the United Kingdom.

The feasibility study is expected to last four months and to cover a range of matters including location. Two matters of special importance in Nissan's decision will be the competitiveness of local component manufacturers and the prospects of establishing a good structure for industrial relations.

The Government wish the company well, and hope the study will reach a satisfactory outcome.

Mr Stanley Orme (Salford, West, Lab), questioning him, said: It is an extraordinary week when the Secretary of State made a statement on support to British Leyland to the tune of £1,000m of British taxpayers' money and, on the other hand, he comes along forced to make this statement based on a press leak.

Many members of senior management in British Leyland were dismayed by this statement because of the consequences it could have on British Leyland.

Is Japan to use this route to avoid any possible import controls, voluntary or otherwise? What effect will it have on discussions in Tokyo at present?

What about the assisted areas which already have car plants, namely Halewood and Linwood? What effect will the development have on them? Will this Japanese production have any effect on the agreement already reached between Honda and British Leyland by producing a car in the same range which could have a detrimental effect on that production?

It is obvious that government policy is in confusion because of statements made this week.

What effect will this have on other firms based on production: Ford and Vauxhall?

How will consultations take place and who will be involved in those consultations?

When he says that a large proportion of the product will be produced in Britain, which they hoped will include engines, rising from 60 per cent to 80 per cent, what guarantees can Mr Tebbit give us that there will be a British content of any production?

How tough will the Government make the agreement? Will it include a provision that the Japanese will be asked to remove their restrictions on British exports to Japan, which is basically a closed market for us?

How many jobs is it envisaged will be created? Can he give an assurance that the British-based car industry will not be injured by these proposals?

Mr Tebbit: Those who are looking for jobs from foreign investment coming into Britain will be deeply shocked and dismayed at the harsh reception to this good news which I have been able to give the House.

British Leyland knew of this proposal and have known for some time. They have raised no objection to it.

Clearly, vehicles built in Britain will not be subject to import controls. I would have expected Mr Orme to tumble to that. It will have no effect whatever on discussions which are going on between British and Japanese car manufacturers concerning voluntary restraint arrangements.

He asked about the effect on other assisted area firms. Since more than 57 per cent of the British market is at present supplied by imported cars—more than 800,000 cars a year—one would have expected this to do more to replace those than other British products, provided that British products are competitive and up to the mark.

The arrangement has nothing to do with the Honda-Leyland arrangements.

I do not know anything about any consultations. The company will be conducting a feasibility study.

There is no question about the installation of a British engine in the cars. If he heard my statement clearly, he will have noted the reference to building an engine factory as part of the deal.

On the question of restrictions by Japan on British exports to Japan, these are not exports by Japan to Britain but it is a question of setting up a manufacturing establishment in Britain. I am sorry that Mr Orme does not seem to want jobs.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of White, L): We warmly welcome the statement and hope it will materialise rapidly. If they do not come here, they could very well go to the EEC and we would lose it, just as we lost Mitsubishi.

Mr Tebbit: The question of where the plant will be sited is a matter for the feasibility study. It is not for me to discuss that. It is for the company.

One hopes that the cars which will be built in Britain if this scheme boes through will be sufficiently competitive and there will not be the need for such a wide import from Japan. It will not cover the whole model range but it will obviously go to the heart of what are at present imported cars.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): While any new investment and new jobs must be welcome, there are still a number of questions which his statement has not fully answered.

For United Kingdom components, 60 per cent is an inadequate figure from which to start because it is not possible for component manufacturers later to recover lost ground. This is one of the main objections to the BL-Honda deal.

There must be concern about the continued imports of completed cars from Japan. An undertaking should be sought from Nissan in this respect once their factory is on stream.

There is over-capacity in the European industry already. Concentration of manufacturers is expected to take place by the time this factory goes on stream. What view does he take of the prospects for European volume car manufacture in that year?

Mr Tebbit: On the 60 per cent proportion for components being too little to start, it would be difficult for the company to guarantee much higher than that at the start of the operation.

They have made plain their intention to reach 80 per cent as soon as they can after the full output of 200,000 a year is reached. It must be clear surely that the cars which are manufactured here are going substantially to reduce imports unless our manufacturers just throw in the towel.

It is about time that we had Britain got our manufacture of cars up to the levels we had a few years ago. Let us have some of the over-capacity on the mainland of Europe cut back instead of cutting back here.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry, North-West, Lab): Will he declare that this will involve no Government spending and give an undertaking that it will not have a bearing on the Talbot plant?

Mr Tebbit: The company will be eligible for help in the development areas, just like any other company, British or foreign. There is no direct Government investment in the company.

The workers in the Talbot factories to a large extent have their future in their own hands between now and the time that this arrangement comes into effect.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea, East, Lab): Would he make clear to this most progressive company that they will be welcome in South Wales? Will the steel be bought in this country and would Nissan have made this choice if we were not part of the EEC?

Mr Tebbit: I note what he said about the suitability of Wales. I imagine one town which will not be considered for the investment would be Salford. (Labour protests).

I hope that the British Steel Corporation will be ready, able and willing to supply the steel at competitive prices and will get the contracts. Were we not members of the EEC we would not be in the position of hoping to receive this investment.

Mr Michael English (Nottingham, West, Lab) on a point of order, said: We have heard a minister intimidate an MP saying a particular project would not be put in his constituency because of what he said in this House. I hope it will be withdrawn immediately.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas): It was an expression of opinion. I did not notice Mr Orme looking as though he was intimidated.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C): Has the Industry Department thought this through? Is it not inconceivable that this would involve taxpayers' subsidies of hundreds of millions of pounds to enable this company to compete directly with BL to whom we have given money?

Has the department considered the furious resentment this will cause in France and the possibility that this will lead to rejection by the Commission of our application for approval of the BL grant?

Mr Tebbit: Apart from the grants which will be made available to any company, British or foreign, choosing to come to a development area, no public money is involved. I would have thought he would welcome a private enterprise company taking its own money.

On the possible furious reaction from France, I am concerned to precisely the same extent as my French colleagues are concerned at various reactions which sometimes come from Britain over the actions of their government. (Laughter.)

Mr Orme: We do not need lectures from the minister on unemployment and industry. We are concerned about creating permanent jobs. We want to see a successful British-based industry. We are concerned that when this firm comes here it is going to be on a permanent basis and that jobs are guaranteed.

When we are looking at the industry as a whole we are looking at British Leyland, Ford and Vauxhall. We want a successful car industry. We want to create more jobs. We do not want to transfer jobs from one part of the country to another. We want jobs in South Wales, the north-east and the rest of the country.

Mr Tebbit: I understand that he did not want a lecture from me, but it seems that he needed it. During the course of the questioning he has begun to modify his attitude and to accept that this will be as welcome as Ford and Vauxhall if we can secure it.

No jobs are permanent. No jobs are guaranteed. They depend upon the customer.

After the statement had been repeated in the House of Lords, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State for Employment, said he expected there to be the creation of at least another 20,000 jobs directly and indirectly, which was a substantial number.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, questioned earlier about redundancies at Talbot, of Coventry, said that where there was considerable overmanning, it might be that a firm had to reduce its labour force to stay efficient.

She said that penetration of the British car market last year by foreign imported cars was 57 per cent.

That makes it clear (she said) that there is a big market for cars in Britain. I hope that more and more companies that produce in Britain will fill that market with their products.

Excellent prospects for further sharp reduction in inflation

Inflation had been substantially reduced and there were excellent prospects for a further sharp decline, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said when asked when he expected to see a substantial improvement in the economy.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab): That is, as usual, a farcical answer. With unemployment the highest since the 1930s, with never-ending redundancies, closures and bankruptcies, with declining business investment and manufacturing constantly being undermined, would he say he has been a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: His question verges on farce. We came into office at a time of mounting world recession, inflation rates that were growing rapidly and at a period when unemployment had been mounting higher and higher.

It is of crucial importance that those engaged in pay settlements should recognize the part they can play in creating moderate pay settlements. That is the best way of protecting jobs.

Sir Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C): There is no hope for the investment-led economic recovery that we need while minimum lending rate remains at its present level.

What is the intellectual case for any further issue of long-dated Government stocks at present interest rates which assume double-figure inflation for years to come and add enormously to the public sector borrowing requirement?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The continued issue of gilts is one of the methods that are sensibly and conventionally adopted for covering the Government's borrowing requirement.

He is right to express his continued concern at the level of interest rates and that is one of the reasons why effective control of the size and volume of public spending and borrowing is so important.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): When is he going to recognize the grave damage to the economy caused by the severe decline in profitable exporting from this country?

Will he take steps to discourage inflows of foreign capital which serve to increase the value of the pound on the international exchanges?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The question of the inflow of foreign capital has arisen many times and experience in other countries shows it is not sensible or possible to try to stem flows of that kind.

The dominant cause of the decline in competitiveness has been the rising level of unit costs over many years and it is by lowering that rate of increase in unit costs by getting sensible pay settlements that we can most effectively and surely offer the best prospect of maintaining export markets.

Mr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C): Substantial improvement to the economy will be inhibited unless small firms have greater access to risk capital from the banks than at present.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I endorse the importance of small firms and in particular their importance in creating new employment. That is one of the factors we have in mind.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab): Unemployment is running at the rate of 2,400,000 and manufacturing output is down by 15 per cent since he took over.

The recent survey of the CBI showed that profits from manufacturing industry were lower this year than they have ever been before and that this will continue throughout 1981.

When does he expect that output in Britain will reach the level he inherited in May, 1979?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: He has not read the CBI survey either thoroughly or effectively otherwise he would also have seen that the number of firms expecting an increase in unit costs is at its lowest ever level and that the proportion of firms expecting an improvement in the prospects for new orders, an improvement in output and in export orders has increased.

Civil Service Department retained

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, announced at question time that she had decided to strengthen and improve the existing organization of the Civil Service Department rather than merge it with the Treasury.

She was replying to Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C) who asked whether, in view of the evidence given by the Secretary to the Cabinet, Sir Derek Rayner and others to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee she intended to proceed with the reabsorption of the Civil Service Department into the Treasury.

The Prime Minister said she had studied the committee's report closely and would be publishing the Government's response to it shortly.

Mr Bruce-Gardyne: In the light of her answer what can we do to restore to the Treasury that measure of control over good housekeeping by the great spending departments of state which they lost when the Civil Service Department took charge of promotion at the top ends of the Civil Service?

Is it not less than coincidental that it is since the establishment of the Civil Service Department public expenditure has spiralled out of control?

Mrs Thatcher: I would not necessarily agree with that coincidence. I started off marginally in favour of merging the two departments but came to the conclusion that if we were to do that all concentration would go on reorganization rather than dealing with the true problem which, as he correctly defines, is effective control of public spending.

The select committee report had some suggestions to make about that and we hope to take up some of them. It is vital we have that control.

As to promotion, the topmost appointments come to the secretary of state for the department and the prime minister of the day. So it is important that we put in people who insist on proper control of public spending and effective value for money.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Does this mean that "Yes, Minister" was on again?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think "Yes, Minister" refers to my administration.

Benefits from end to strike-ridden image

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions that last year's large reduction in working days lost through strikes was welcome and if Britain could get rid of its image as a strike ridden country it would benefit people in home trade and export industries.

Mr Allan Stewart (East Renfrewshire, C): Has the Prime Minister had the chance to see the recent report published in the Scottish industrial and commercial review prepared by Professor MacKay of Heriot Watt and other economists which forecast a continuing reduction in the rate of inflation and steady economic upturn from late this year into the medium term?

Does she agree this reflects economic reality and that in the midst of the recession there are increasing positive signs for the future in Scotland, as elsewhere in the United Kingdom?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): That was a most interesting and excellent report from the economists at Heriot Watt University showing there is considerable hope that inflation is coming down and that we can expect an economic upturn.

The report is positive and excellent. Scottish economists are very good. They started with Adam Smith. I am delighted to see the tradition continue.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, (Ebbw Vale, Lab): Has Mrs Thatcher had a chance today to examine the report that the Government support for British Leyland is being submitted to investigation in Brussels by the EEC?

Will she give us an undertaking that this programme will go ahead whatever they may say there?

Mrs Thatcher: I think Mr Foot was in the House when Sir Keith Joseph made his statement about British Leyland in which he said it would have to be referred to the EEC under the rules of the Commission which are rules which applied to the previous Government as this one. I do not anticipate any difficulty.

Mr Foot: I do not recall that Sir Keith Joseph said that in the House. If I am wrong, I will happily put that right. Can I still press the Prime Minister strongly on the matter?

We believe that it is essential that the backing for British Leyland should go ahead and the decision should be made in this House and not anywhere else.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not believe there will be any difficulty with the final decision of the Commission. I believe, therefore, that the backing for British Leyland will go ahead.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): The fact that last year saw the lowest number of working days lost through strikes since 1941 shows the realism with which the British people are facing the recession.

If we can keep this realism when we come out of the recession productivity will improve, we will be able to compete better and new jobs will be created.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree that the news was welcome. We have an excellent strike record that has not been bettered for 41 years.

Labour protests at minister's comments

Mr Harry Ewing (Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth, Lab) on a point of order following the Commons exchanges about the Japanese car project, said: It would be easy to allow the minister's comment about Salford not being considered to pass almost unnoticed, as if it were a light-hearted remark, but MPs in all parts of the House are entitled to ask probing questions about any statement that has been made—(interruptions.) Should not Mr Tebbit, the Minister of State, withdraw that remark?

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas): Order. The whole House heard the exchange. The minister is responsible for his own statement.

Mr Ewing: I had hoped the minister would at least show humility and get up and withdraw the remark. (Labour cheers.)

The Speaker: Order. There is no breach of any point of order that has taken place. I am taking no further points of order on that question.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab): I am sure you are right. It is not a point of order; it is surely a matter of good manners.

The Speaker: Order. Even the Leader of the Opposition must obey the Chair. This is not a point or order. It is a matter of disagreement between both sides. It is not a point of order. (More interruptions.) Order. I am not taking points of order at the moment.

Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab): You are not a dictator, you know. You are a chairman.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): I trust we have the right as MPs to raise what we consider an important issue. If you want to say in effect that what I am saying is not a point you will do so.

I thought we had the right in this House to put our point of view. If by putting our point of view we can be subject to intimidation by a minister . . .

The Speaker: Order. He tries to keep alive an issue with which I have already dealt.

Mr Cryer: Point of order . . .

The Speaker: I would regard it as a gross discourtesy to the Chair if anyone persists in dealing with a question I have already ruled upon. I warn him I shall regard it as such.

Mr Cryer: It is a different situation to the one you have already ruled on. You may recall that I was a minister at the Department of Industry and the legislation under which grants are made to the assisted areas is the 1972 modified by the 1975 Industry Act.

That legislation does not allow a minister any discretion. I would have thought that if a minister announced publicly that he was going to use his discretion in a way that was against the law it would be a matter for the Chair to prevent that occurring.

The Speaker: Order. I have not heard such a statement. (Labour protests.) Order. I am not taking points of order. I have already embarked on the business of the day.

PM puts total cost of jobless at £2,300m

According to her memory the estimated cost to the national insurance fund of unemployment benefit this year would be about £1,100m, to which should be added the sum for social security of about £1,200m, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time when she was asked about the cost of unemployment.

Mr Stanley Crowther (Rotherham, Lab) said that earlier during Treasury questions they were told that the Government had no idea of how much unemployment was costing public funds.

Will Mrs Thatcher (he said) instruct her Treasury ministers to find out because if they do not know, how can they justify their policy that it is better to pay people to be out of work than to put money into industry to keep them in jobs? (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: If one had to pay to put absolutely everyone into work then if their wages were to be greater than unemployment benefit this would be a greater cost.

If you have got to pay people to pay tax back to you, then there really is no benefit.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, (Ebbw Vale, Lab): Before we have the important debate on unemployment next Thursday can we have a *statement* from the Government giving full details of the cost of unemployment?

Mrs Thatcher: If MPs put down questions for the appropriate answer they will get all the statistics available.

Earlier, when Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon, Plaid Cymru) asked for the latest estimate of the PSBR, Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said MPs should wait for the Budget statement.

Mr Wigley: When the statement appears the likely figure will be about £10,000m and £12,000m. It will be even more if unemployment keeps rising as it is.

The average cost of keeping someone out of work is £5,000 or £6,000 a year according to the Treasury, as opposed to someone being in work.

The Government should consider giving help to all schemes to keep people in work and in the public sector or helping small companies in the private sector. Unemployment costs lead to the large PSBR.

Mr Brittan (Cleveland and Whitby, C): The average unemployment cost is not £6,000. That relates to a family man with two children. The average figure is probably nearer £3,500.

But because it costs that to the Exchequer it does not follow that by spending comparable sums it would be possible to create employment to the same extent. One would have to take account of the consequential changes of spending money on those lines in relation to inflation and everything else.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab): I do not understand why he is being so coy. We had the Chancellor's statement in November that the expected PSBR for the year was £11,500m. The Financial Secretary added to it in a recent speech. It is about £12,000 or more.

The major cause of this overshoot is precisely due to the falling off of tax revenues and the increase in social security payments because of massive unemployment. So is there any sense in publishing long-term figures or estimates of the PSBR?

In the light of this experience, will he adhere to the published target for 1981-82?

Mr Brittan: It would be a major change of Opposition if he is suggesting that the forecast published at the time of the Budget and the Industry Act should not be published.

Major factors in any increase in the PSBR are the higher borrowing by local authorities and public corporations, and in addition there has been an increase in central government spending on defence as a result of the effects of recession.

Mr Shore: It is not a question of the PSBR being a forecast but of taking account of the real world which even the Government must consider. Is he being sensible and wise in continuing to "target" when he knows the major cause of overspend. How much of it is due to the rise in unemploymtnt?

Mr Brittan: I am not going to bandy words with him about the words "forecast" and "target". It is necessary to give figures of this kind at Budget time and with the Industry Act. But nobody can guarantee there will not be factors which lead to the figures changing during the year.

If he thinks any Government he ever belonged to has been able to give such figures and never change them, then his memory must be failing him.

Language test for immigrants remains

The British Nationality Bill was read a second time early today by 292 votes to 242—Government majority, 50. An Opposition motion that the committee stage of the Bill should be taken on the floor of the House rather than in a standing committee was rejected *by 293 votes to 243—Government* majority, 50.

During later stages of the debate.

Mr John Tilley, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Lambeth, Central, Lab), said the Bill in many ways devalued the British passport by treating it as little more than an admission ticket for those living abroad and a pass out ticket for those wishing to get back if they went abroad. It was a shabby little immigration Bill.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office (Aylesbury, C) said it had been argued that the Bill should contain some statement on rights and duties. But there was no need to add to the Bill provisions which were well covered in other statutes.

If there was to be a distinctive United Kingdom citizenship, carrying right of abode, there must be a composite arrangement for the dependencies. He doubted if many dependencies would wish for their own separate status.

He refuted the suggestion that the citizenship of the dependent territories was second class. It was a parallel citizenship.

Foreigners seeking naturalization had long had to pass the test of language, good character, residence and intention to live here. There was nothing discriminatory in applying this to Commonwealth citizens.

To speak a country's language seemed necessary if a person was to play a full part as a citizen. It was recognized that the old and the handicapped might not be able to pick up a new language and they would be treated exceptionally. No change was proposed in the fairly easy-going language test that already existed.

The Government's aim was to produce a piece of legislation that *would endure. It had been said* that it would create uncertainty, but that was not so.

Royal Assent

The Social Security (Contributions) Act received Royal assent.

Black economy costs Exchequer £3,000m

A common thread running through all reports of the Public Accounts Committee in the last session of Parliament was the all-party desire to have the most cost-effective and efficient way of spending the huge sums of public money concerned and to ensure the best value for money, Mr Joel Barnett, chairman of the committee, said opening a debate on the committee.

Mr Barnett (Heywood and Royton, Lab) said the committee supported the Treasury in reducing the Ministry of Defence's cash limits in 1979-80. It was understood that the overspend had continued again in 1980-81, and the Government should give some indication that no further overspend was anticipated.

The report on revenue posed more serious questions than most of the reports on public expenditure. On the black economy, the Inland Revenue's latest estimate was that income going untaxed was £12,000m. The loss of revenue could be £3,000m to £3,500m.

The committee believed that the black economy dwarfed all other problems facing the department. It was a dangerous issue, which if allowed to grow in the way it had been doing, posed grave dangers to the structure of a democratic society.

The method chosen to deal with the black economy also posed serious problems and dangers for it could put in danger the personal liberty of a democratic society which they were seeking to defend.

He was pleased to note from the Treasury that an investigation headed by Lord Keith was looking into the question of how to deal with the black economy.

Mr Barry Jones (Flint, East, Lab) said the Government should presen a statement to Parliament giving the details of the EEC budget. Britain's contributions towards it and receipts from it in tse clearest possible manner.

Mr Robert Sheldon, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab), said that schemes for tax avoidance were growing as the tax system became more complicated.

Schemes for avoidance were being sold and were not picked up by the Inland Revenue until large sums of money had been lost in taxation. How long were the people going to pay under PAYE, the most certain form of taxation, when they read articles in the newspapers which showed people, much better off than they were, handling large sums of money on which no taxation, or hardly any, had been paid? Some steps had to be taken.

If the Financial Secretary to the Treasury came to the House and asked for increased powers to deal with avoidance the Opposition would be prepared to give him a sympathetic hearing. They urged him to consider such an approach.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary *to the Treasury (Blaby, C)*, said the Treasury had examined the exploitation of present Schedule D rules by partnerships about which the committee had reported.

We need to be satisfied (he said) that any measures taken are equitable and do not impose unacceptable costs. The Government has decided that it would be appropriate for interested parties to be given an opportunity to comment before legislation is introduced. The Revenue have been authorized to issue a consultative document on this matter later in the year.

There were signs of further defence overspending this year and spring supplementary estimates would be presented next month.

The general practice was that overspending should be offset by a corresponding reduction in the following year.

The Government was considering the possibility of introducing a scheme of carryover of unspent funds, in the light of the PAC's comments.

The Treasury recognized the importance of attacking the black economy and attention was being directed to identifying areas of the black economy which would most repay attention, and to devising the most effective means of dealing with that.

The black economy was by no means a single monolithic homogenious phenomena. It included many different and various types of tax evasion by many various and different types of people. Moonlighting which in total quantity was the biggest, was especially difficult to deal with partly because of the relatively small size in each case.

The revenue had had some considerable success in recent years in improving effectiveness in dealing with evasion. The amount collected in investigation work had risen from some £22m in 1976 to some £91m in 1979.

Lord Keith expected his committee's inquiry to take about two years and that was an inevitable reflection of the complexity of the subject and the need for the most thorough treatment of it.

The debate concluded.

Investment and fair reward in N Sea

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that during consultations on tax changes with the North Sea oil industry he would be doing everything possible to bring a right balance between promoting investment and giving a fair reward to investors.

Sir Geoffrey Howe (East Surrey, C) indicated that consultations with the industry were in progress and were likely to continue for some time.

Due regard will be paid (he said) to all representations made to me on the prospective changes in the North Sea fiscal regime when I frame my Budget.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab): Because of the nature of these discussions and the timescale involved, certain substantial investment which would be forthcoming from companies as borrowers in the North Sea is likely to be held up with considerable consequences for employment, particularly in Scotland.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The prospect of any fiscal change is bound to be a factor affecting investment intentions in reaching my decision.

Economic debate next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Education Bill and Insurance Companies Bill, second readings.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on poverty.

Wednesday: Industry Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on the economic situation.

Friday: Private Members' Bills: Freedom of Information Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Wildlife and Countryside Bill, committee (second day.)

Tuesday: Wildlife and Countryside Bill, committee (Third day.)

Wednesday: Debate on Government criticism of the public sector.

Thursday: Energy Conservation Bill, report stage. Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Bill, committee. Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Bill, committee.

Bill to stop sale of pets in street markets

House of Lords

A private member's Bill to ban the *street trading of pets was given* a second reading, although it did not receive Government support. Lord Belstead, Under Secretary, Home Office, said the Bill was directed at pet trading at Club Row, Tower Hamlets, where the borough council would be imposing stricter conditions on licencees from this month.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby (Lab) who introduced the Pets Animals Act 1951 (Amendment) Bill said it *would prevent unnecessary suffering* to animals, and discourage people buying pets on impulse.

He said the main purpose of the 1951 Act was concerned with the licensing of pet shops and made it an offence to sell pets from a stall or barrow and by a person who had not been granted a licence to do so by the local authority. This Bill sought to revoke street trading altogether.

There were strong views as to whether this form of selling animals was conducive to responsible pet ownership. Many puppies and kittens were bought as a passing fancy, but when they became an expense or chore were disposed of.

People would think twice before buying a pet if they had to go to pet shops or kennels first. Many *pets destined for laboratory* experiments were bought at such markets.

He had been to Club Row at Tower Hamlets where pets were sold in an open market, and had not liked what he saw. The Bill was supported by the RSPCA and the British Veterinary Association.

Lord Belstead, said he had consulted the police about Club Row and been told by the local commander that everything possible *was being done by his officers to* prevent contravention of the law. In addition, RSPCA officers were also in regular attendance.

The borough council was aware of the situation and their evident concern had promoted their environment health department to impose from this month stricter conditions on licences which they believed would be in line with the recommendations of the BVA.

The Bill would end all street trading in the country and put out of business street traders who were properly licensed to sell animals. The Bill would hit far more than its target, which seemed to be Club Row.

The Bill was read a second time.

Hopes for Tate and Lyle refinery in Liverpool

Earl Jellicoe, chairman of Tate and Lyle, put forward two alternatives which if accepted, he said, would save the company from having to close its Liverpool refinery. He was speaking in a debate on the consequences of the closure for the continued access of raw cane sugar from Commonwealth countries.

He said that if at this late hour it was possible for the original United Kingdom beet sugar quota of 936,000 tonnes proposed by the EEC Commission to be accepted, there would be no need to close the refinery.

Alternatively, if it were possible for arrangements to be worked out whereby surplus beet sugar over that limit were exported there would be no need for the refinery to be closed with all that meant for the people of Liverpool.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said the total United Kingdom consumption of sugar had fallen from 2.7m tonnes in 1974-75 to 2.3m tonnes in 1980-81.

The optimistic aim of about 1.3m tonnes of sugar which was going to be produced from sugar beet in the United Kingdom had had to be revised.

The present United Kingdom quota under the European Community sugar regime was 1.32m tonnes and the Government was prepared to accept a substantial cut in it if reduction could be made for *all member states on an equitable basis.*

The minister had indicated that in a satisfactory settlement he would accept a United Kingdom quota of 1.15m tonnes which was about the United Kingdom production potential.

This should permit a reasonable balance between the interests of the beet sugar and cane sugar producers.

The Trees (Replanting and Replacement) Bill was read a second time.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 9.30: Private Members' Bills: Indecent Displays (Control) Bill, second reading.

Liberal's Bill to change voting rights rejected

It was politically and morally wrong for people with two homes to have dual registration for voting in parliamentary and local elections, Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran (L) said when he moved the second reading of the Registration of the People Bill.

He said dual registration was based on property rights and constituted an outrage upon the democratic and political rights of citizens with only one home.

This was a short Bill to remedy a serious defect in the law of the voting rights of British citizens. The present state of the law gave unfair and unjust advantages to a limited class of people who were able to maintain two or more residences.

The Bill would require every elector who had a second home to choose or declare which was his main or principal residence. He would then be entitled to be *entered on the electoral register* only in relation to that one residence.

Lord Balfour of Inchrye (C) said it was a bad Bill. A man might have a house in London and considerable agricultural interests in Scotland but his only residence there was a small crofter's cottage. The government of the day might make some extreme proposals for Scotland.

Lord Underhill (Lab) for the Opposition, said in some constituencies large numbers of people had registered at their holiday homes and affected the result in a marginal constituency.

A person could decide in which constituency to exercise his vote. The person concerned asked himself: "Where can my vote be exercised to the best advantage of the party I want to support?"

Lord Belstead, Under Secretary, Home Office, said this was an undesirable change in the electoral laws. There was a danger that the essentially simple process of electoral registration would be complicated so as to make the end result more inaccurate.

There were several groups of people who might legitimately claim to reside in more than one place. The Bill would create difficulties for students, for people who had temporarily left home and for those who owned, rented or occupied two homes.

There was a clear law against double voting in elections to the same authority.

The motion for a second reading was rejected by 77 votes to 46—Majority against the Bill, 31.

House adjourned, 8.37 pm.

Inquiry costs £1.7m

Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham, North-West, Lab) asked the Home Secretary to make an interim statement on the progress of the inquiry into the Crown Agents concerning the loss of £200m of public funds.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, said in a written reply: Up to January 27 the tribunal has heard evidence on 254 days; in addition it has met in private on 74 occasions; 91 witnesses will have been here when the current stage of the public hearings is completed; four new witnesses are to be heard in the final stage beginning on January 29 and at least one earlier witness is to be recalled.

The hearings are likely to be completed next week and the tribunal is expected to report towards the end of this year.

Actual expenditure on legal costs to date amounts to approximately £7m and total expenditure to the end of December was £1,700,000. These figures do not include the cost of the Treasury Solicitor's staff, fees for which bills have not yet been submitted or bills for approximately £100,000 that are currently being examined; and no allowance has been made for the cost of accommodation for the hearings in Government buildings.

It is not possible at this stage to estimate the final total costs of the tribunal.

Athletics

Open door could shut out millions

By Nicholas Keith

A strong warning against rushing into "open" athletics has been issued by Arthur Gold, president of the European Athletic Association. He fears that professionalism would only benefit the leading athletes and their agents, it might even lead to the collapse of the sport.

Mr Gold has set out his strictures in a paper which is being circulated to clubs by the Amateur Athletic Association, the controlling body in England and Wales. The AAA is to debate open athletics at an extraordinary general meeting on February 28, when they will consider the recommendations of a sub-committee that athletes should receive cash prizes, appearance money and benefit from advertising.

Mr Gold's paper was prepared at the request of Squire Yarrow, the president of the AAA. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) expect that they will be able to publish their working party's report on this thorny matter within two weeks. So there will not be a shortage of ammunition for the great debate in London on February 28.

"Our sport is not for a score or so stars," Mr Gold declares. "It is for the thousands who compete at club level and for the millions who compete in it at school level." He insists that he does not want to bring back the "Victorian amateur gentleman" but to stress realities.

Mr Gold states that leading athletes have been developed through an expensive system of coaching and competition and much of the money has come from the Government and sponsors. "Were that money to be diverted from the governing bodies to the pockets of individual competitors and their agents the existing competition and coaching infrastructure would collapse."

He points out that in the build-up to the 1980 Olympic Games, British athletes received £133,956 from the Sports Aid Foundation, through the British Amateur Athletic Board. This was an example of the important contribution to the cost of equipment, coaching, travel and acclimatization which has been accepted since 1976.

Another concern of Mr Gold's is that "vast personal incomes may increase illicit drug-taking", an evil which he has fought gallantly to eradicate. He also sees a danger that money would be concentrated on certain events and that others, less popular, could "wither and die".

Alan Pascoe, the former European and Commonwealth 400 metres hurdles champion, was quick to disagree with Mr Gold's gloomy prognosis. "A few people will make a lot of money and good luck to them," he said yesterday. "But in practice it will benefit the sport as a whole. In America athletes are being paid large sums for ordinary road races—not world stars, just good, solid athletes.

"Open athletics will come whatever Arthur Gold says, but it would be better if it happened under the control of the IAAF and the International Olympic Committee," he added. Indeed, he might have gone even further and said that any degree of professionalism should *only* be introduced into athletics under the auspices of these international governing bodies.

As Mr Gold says, the AAA would be foolish to "go it alone"; they might even find themselves at odds with the Scottish and women's AAAs, let alone the rest of the world. John Holt, the general secretary of the IAAF, said yesterday that there was no means of telling what their 165 member countries would decide at their full congress in September.

Let us hope that athletics can end the hypocrisy of "shamateurism" without plunging into the pitfalls encountered by tennis, show jumping and badminton and without compromising the needs of the club athletes. At least, and at last, the debate is coming to a head.

Rugby Union

Wales unchanged for the high road

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Wales, who are in line for a fifth triple crown in six seasons, have made no changes for their second international of the season, against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday week. The selectors have put their faith in the players who achieved a dramatic victory, 21—19, over England in Cardiff on January 17, and they have also nominated the same six replacements.

The result apart, there was not a lot in that success against England to enthuse discerning Welsh eyes. Yet it comes as no surprise that the selectors have decided to give a refashioned side the chance to settle in together. The decision means a second cap for the Llanelli wing, David Nicholas, for Ian Stephens, the Bridgend loose-head, and for Rhodri Lewis, the Cardiff open-side flanker, both of whom contributed a full part to a solid performance at forward to the English match.

The selectors may well have deliberated whether to increase their lineout potential by restoring Allan Martin at lock, but Clive Davis, who scored the try against England, did well enough in this and other areas to deserve another chance. The lineout opposition Davis will face at Murrayfield does not look especially daunting.

Except for the remarkable kicking qualities of Gareth Davies (who missed Cardiff's match last weekend but is confident of proving his fitness at Llanelli on Saturday), there is more Welsh worry about the midfield play. The wings had nothing to get enthusiastic about in the English game. So there is pressure on the captain, Steve Fenwick, and David Richards to produce something more exciting at centre against Scotland.

Wales must have all but resigned themselves to playing the championship without the Cardiff scrum half, Terry Holmes, who is recovering from an operation on the shoulder he injured with the Lions in South Africa. Another Lions' international, Brynmor Williams, will now win a third cap for his country.

WALES: J. P. R. Williams (Bridgend); R. A. Ackerman (Newport), D. S. Richards (Swansea), S. P. Fenwick (Bridgend, capt), D. L. Nicholas (Llanelli); W. G. Davies (Cardiff), D. B. Williams (Swansea); I. Stephens (Bridgend), A. J. Phillips (Cardiff), G. Price (Pontypool), C. E. Davis (Newbridge), G. A. D. Wheel (Swansea), J. R. Lewis (Cardiff), G. P. Williams (Bridgend), J. Squire (Pontypool). Replacements: G. Evans (Maesteg), G. Pearce (Bridgend), Gerald Williams (Bridgend), C. Williams (Swansea), S. Jones (Pontypool), A. Martin (Aberavon).



Brynmor Williams: wins a third cap for Wales.

London look a handy side

By Gordon Allan

London 24 Guy's 4

The London beat Guy's by a goal, two penalty goals and three tries to a try at Cobham yesterday to reach the semi-final round of the Hospitals Cup rugby competition. Their opponents at Richmond on February 11 will be last year's runners up, Westminster, who made hard work of beating University College, 7—0, on Tuesday.

Guy's, although weakened by influenza and injuries, scored first and succeeded in keeping the London at arms length for most of the first half by tackling hard, kicking coolly, and counter attacking whenever possible. But it was not to be expected that a team with so many changes could prevent one as useful as the London from taking charge eventually.

Having given themselves time to settle down, the London scored twice shortly before half-time, and after that they knew exactly where they were going. If Allen had been able to kick more goals, they would have won twice as easily.

Hughes scored a try for Guy's in the first five minutes. Bundy put in a diagonal kick, Hughes stole the ball from under the London's noses, and Slater and Hackett handled before returning it to him at the corner. Both sides took some heels against the head, and from one of these, near Guy's line, came the London's first try, Condon, the London Irish player, diving through a crowd for it. Allen converted and then kicked a penalty.

Roderick, Long and Lammiman scored the London's tries in the second half and Allen kicked a penalty. Long's was the best. From a lineout on halfway Condon split the defence and made a lot of ground, twisting and turning, before throwing a long pass to Cussen, a hooker of perpetual motion. Cussen's pass to Long was equally well directed.

Lammiman, a Blackheath centre, is the London captain. His try was made by Holman and Allen, who helped run the ball at Guy's when Hackett missed touch from a penalty in his own 22. If Westminster's performance against humble opposition like UCH is any guide, the London must have a fair to middling chance of reaching the final. They look a handy team, fore and aft.

LONDON HOSPITAL: M. Benson; S. Allen, C. Lammiman, R. Holman, G. Long; H. Condon, P. Roderick; T. Briggs, D. Cussen, A. Murday, I. Besnell, R. Baker, R. Hughes, T. Lewis, A. Taylor.

GUY'S HOSPITAL: P. Reynolds; A. Jones, L. Hughes, N. Slater, M. Hackett; M. Bundy, R. Docker; G. Parry, E. Rose, A. Liddell, J. Beard, S. Challacomb, J. Brader, P. Loxton, M. Lowry.

Referee: G. Hewitt (London).

Holders conquer King's

By Richard Streeton

St Mary's 35 King's College 10

St Mary's, winners of the Hospitals Cup for the past three years, qualified to meet St Bartholomew's in the semi-final round of the present tournament with this win yesterday at the Royal Free ground, Enfield. St Mary's were too strong in front and had too much running ability in midfield for King's College, who were beaten by three goals, three penalty goals and two tries against two penalties and a try.

Only in the final 25 minutes, though, when St Mary's scored three tries did King's have to bend the knee to opponents who started slowly and at first were unable to overcome some effective tackling and spoiling. King's finished a tired side having given everything they had to what by the end had become a thankless task. When St Mary's came to the boil they handled and passed with impressive fluency.

St Mary's had 10 of last year's winning side playing, six of them in the pack where Emberton, Sampson and Jackson all made their mark. Ralston, the stand-off, Greenhalgh, both as a runner and kicker in the centre, and Miles, a newcomer at full back, were the three most dangerous.

By half-time St Mary's lead was only 10—6. Greenhalgh had trouble with his place-kicking and there was even a question mark over St Mary's try — with many spectators believing that Cotgreave had put a boot into touch as he ran in to score. Lewis had launched the attack himself, his forwards at that stage still short on forcefulness and drive. Padwick, with two good penalties, and Greenhalgh, with two simpler ones, were the other scorers.

Soon after the interval Ralston created a try for Greenhalgh, who also converted it, before King's hit back with a try by Clark in the left hand corner after the wing had intercepted a loose pass and sprinted 40 metres. Greenhalgh kicked a penalty to put St Mary's 19—10 ahead and from then on they were clearly in charge. Jackson, Miles and Greenhalgh scored tries and Greenhalgh converted the first two.

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL: J. Miles; A. Thompson, M. Dixon, M. Greenhalgh, G. Paige; C. Ralston, A. Lewis; M. Preskey, E. Lewis (capt.), M. Emberton, J. Cotgreave, P. Sampson, S. Patterson-Brown, P. Jackson, A. Wakefield.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL: R. Atkinson; C. Macdonald, R. Balal, D. Haines, S. Clark; M. Padwick, I. Griffiths; S. Campbell, P. Briggs, I. Swift, T. Glynn, R. Bradley, S. Davies (capt.), S. Skyrme-Jones, R. Edmundson.

Referee: D. N. Warren (London).

Bobsleigh

Goodhew fails to earn place in British team

Duncan Goodhew, Britain's 23-year-old Olympic 100 metres breaststroke champion has failed in his attempt to find further glory in bobsleighing. Goodhew, from Yapton, Sussex, has not been selected as brakeman for either of the two four man bob crews to represent Great Britain at the world championships, which start tomorrow at Cortina in Italy.

A spokesman said: "He is showing great promise but is still a novice. Obviously the bob drivers want the men they consider the best and fittest for the job."

Four soldiers and four civilians make up the British team, which will be led by the experienced Sgt Malcolm Lloyd of the Queen's Dragoon Guards who will drive the top four man bob as well as team up with Graham Watson of Sunbury-on-Thames in one of the two double handers.

The Plymouth Major Jonathan Woodall (4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards), a former holder of the world Cresta Run record, will drive the second four, with Peter Brugani as his brakeman on that and the other two man bob. The crew for the top four man bob will be Cpl Howard Smith (Queen's Dragoon Guards) and Paddy Breedon.

LEADING TIMES: (first run): Switzerland one, 1:13.38 minutes (new record for track); EG one, 1:13.42; EG two, 1:13.43; Austria one, 1:14.37; US one, 1:14.41; Italy two, 1:14.52. Second run: EG two, 1:13.86; EG one, 1:13.96; Switzerland one, 1:14.37; Switzerland two, 1:14.62; Italy two, 1:14.87; WG one, 1:15.15; GB two (J. Woodhall, P. Brugnani) 1:15.24.

Rowing appointment

John Veats has been elected chairman of the Amateur Rowing Association executive committee in succession to Michael Walker, who resigned at the last ARA council meeting in December. Mr Veats, aged 51, a financial executive with Shell International, will continue until April to be the ARA's honorary treasurer.

Skiing

Miss Nadig's turn to lead

Megeve, Jan 29.—Marie Thérèse Nadig, of Switzerland, turned the tables on her compatriot Doris de Agostini today, beating her in a women's downhill to take a massive 86-point lead in the overall World Cup placings.

The victory gave Miss Nadig a World Cup total of 238 points, compared to 152 for second-placed Erika Hess, also of Switzerland. Christa Kinshofer, of West Germany, is third with 145 and Perrine Pelen, of France, fourth with 139.

Miss Nadig covered the 2,180 metres course with a 529 metres drop in 1min 21.05sec. Miss de Agostini clocked 1min 21.13sec while Cornelia Proell, of Austria, in third place, clocked 1min 21.69sec.

The World Cup holder and double Olympic gold medallist Hanni Wenzel, of Liechenstein, continued her progress up the overall standings today with a twelfth place finish. Miss Wenzel, who missed the first month of the season because of a training injury, was eleventh yesterday but earned enough world points in a combined to get into the top 10. She collected four more points today and is now joint fifth overall with Fabienne Serrat, of France. Both have 126 points. Miss Wenzel is still 126 points behind Miss Nadig, but the season has a long way to go and overall victory is not beyond her grasp.

LEADING UNOFFICIAL PLACINGS: 1, M. T. Nadig (Switzerland) 1min 21.05sec; 2, D. de Agostini (Switzerland) 1:21.13; 3, C. Proell (Austria) 1:21.69; 4, H. Flanders (US) 1:22.06; 5, M. Wallser (Switzerland) and G. Sorensen (Canada) 1:22.07.

WORLD CUP DOWNHILL STANDINGS: 1, M. T. Nadig (Switzerland) 120; 2, D. de Agostini (Switzerland) 110; 3, C. Proell (Austria) 73; 4, I. Epple (West Germany) 61, J. Sollysova (Czechoslovakia) 61; 6, H. B. Flanders (US) 57.

WORLD CUP OVERALL STANDINGS: 1, M. T. Nadig (Switzerland) 238pts; 2, E. Hess (W Germany) 152; 3, C. Kinshofer (W Germany) 145; 4, P. Pelen (France) 139; 5, F. Serrat (France), H. Wenzel (Liechtenstein) 126.—Reuter.

Rackets

Braithwaite and Nicholls are dominant

By Roy McKelvie

Mark Nicholls, the holder, and Christopher Braithwaite, a former holder, will meet in the final of the Army Rackets championships at Queen's Club. This is no more than expected and the ease with which they have reached this stage puts them in a class of their own.

Nicholls, who took the title off Braithwaite last year, has had the advantage of a reasonable season's play having competed in the amateur singles and doubles championships. He gave very little away against Alex Finlayson in yesterday's semi-final round. The loser played some pleasing strokes but the pace was too hot for him.

Braithwaite beat David Reed-Felstead, 15—5, 15—0, 15—1, and after the middle of the first game it ceased to be much of a contest though not because of any brilliant play by the winner. He was merely efficient. Reed-Felstead began to miss a few shots that normally he would expect to get, became thoroughly frustrated at his personal deficiencies and lost his head.

RESULTS: Army singles: Semi-final round: Lt M. W. Nicholls beat Capt A. I. Finlayson, 15—2, 15—4, 15—9; Capt C. H. Braithwaite beat Capt D. M. Reed-Felstead, 15—5, 15—0, 15—1. Inter-regimental doubles: Semi-final: 15/19 Hussars (Braithwaite and Lt M. B. H. Evans, holders) beat Royal Greenjackets (Major A. S. G. Drew and Major P. G. Chamberlain) 15—1, 15—1, 15—12, 15—1; Blues and Royals (Reed-Felstead and Major D. T. L. Hardy) beat 4/7 Dragoon Guards (Nicholls and Lt C. P. L. Sandbach), 15—3, 15—5, 15—11, 15—5.

SCHOOL MATCH: J. P. Snow and J. S. Mole (Radley) beat M. R. C. Swallow and J. P. Worlidge (Marlborough), 15—1, 9—15, 15—9, 15—5, 16—14; M. I. Tentori and J. P. Mallett (Haileybury) beat J. May and A. Bristow (Charterhouse), 4—2.

For the record

Tennis

PHILADELPHIA: US Pro Indoor championship: Second round: T. Gullikson beat B. Gottfried 7—5, 6—3; A. Giammalva beat B. Waltz 6—4, 3—6, 6—3; S. Giammalva beat B. Mitton (S.A.) 6—4, 4—6, 6—3; W. Fibak (Poland) beat C. Delaney 1—6, 6—2, 6—0; T. Tulasne (France) beat M. Purcell 6—4, 6—1; V. Amaya beat J. Borowiak 6—4, 6—4; R. Tanner beat H. Gunthardt (Switzerland) 6—3, 6—4; V. Gerulaitis beat S. Glickstein (Israel) 6—2, 6—2; B. Taroczy (Hungary) beat R. Ramirez (Mexico) 7—6, 6—2; Y. Noah (France) beat T. Moor 6—4, 3—6, 6—3; R. Stockton beat T. Smid (Czechoslovakia) 6—4, 6—4; J. Sadri beat S. Mayer 4—6, 6—4, 6—2; P. Portes (France) beat V. Amritraj (India) 7—6, 6—1.

CHICAGO: Womens tournament: third round: M. Navratilova beat W. White 6—1, 6—4; V. Ruzici (Romania) beat K. Horvath 6—4, 6—3; V. Wade (G.B.) beat E. Norton 6—3, 6—3; M. Louie beat J. Duvall 6—1, 6—3; B. Bunge beat R. Marsikova (Czechoslovakia) 6—1, 6—1; L. Allen beat H. Eisterlehner (W.G.) 6—1, 4—6, 6—4; S. Collins beat Y. Brzakova (Czechoslovakia) 7—6, 6—7, 6—3; A. Smith beat R. Fairbank (South Africa) 6—2, 6—1; B. Potter beat M. Jausovec (Yugoslavia) 6—4, 6—4. Doubles: second round: Wade and B. Nagelsen beat K. Ruddell and S. Saliba (Australia) 6—2, 7—5.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh Penguins 5, Minnesota North Stars 1; Hartford Whalers 6, Colorado Rockies 3; Detroit Red Wings 3, Quebec Nordiques 2; Chicago Black Hawks 7, Vancouver Canucks 3; New York Islanders 6, Toronto Maple Leafs 4; Philadelphia Flyers 4, Buffalo Sabres 4; Edmonton Oilers 9, Montreal Canadiens 1; New York Rangers 6, Los Angeles Kings 2.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 104, Philadelphia 76-ers 101; Indiana Pacers 108, Golden State Warriors 102; Washington Bullets 108, Phoenix Suns 98; Houston Rockets 111, New Jersey Nets 99; Milwaukee Bucks 119, Seattle Supersonics 110.

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Emerson Varese (Italy) 88, Efes Pilsen (Turkey) 69.

KORAC CUP: Quarter-final round: fifth series: Asvel Villeurbanne (France) 106, Sunair Ostend 92; Juventud Badalona (Spain) 67, Partizan Belgrade 63.

RONCHETTI CUP: Quarter-final round: Fifth series: Kralovopolska Brno (Czechoslovakia) 64, CUC Clermont-Ferrand 60; Asnieres (France) 94, Vozdovac Belgrade 68; Maritsa Plovdir (Bulgaria) 90, Monting Zagreb 72.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.

FOURTH DIVISION: Stockport County v Darlington; Tranmere Rovers v Southend United.

HOCKEY: Women's territorial match: North v South (at Hightown HC, Liverpool, 2.0).

Motor rallying

Therier crashes out of rally

Monte Carlo, Jan 29.—Jean-Luc Therier and Michel Vidi, of France, crashed out of the 49th Monte Carlo rally in the closing stages tonight, yielding first place to their fellow countrymen, Ragnotti and Jean Marc Andrie, in a Renault Turbo. Race officials said Therier skidded on snow put on the road by spectators and his Porsche hit a railing, damaging the suspension. The drivers were not hurt.

Therier had built a lead of more than three minutes after Hannu Mikkola, of Finland, the pre-race favourite, had dropped back with mechanical trouble. The accident left Ragnotti holding a two-minute lead over another Frenchman, Guy Frequelin, in a Talbot Lotus, after the first of eight special speed tests to be held during the night.

Two West Germans, Klaus Kleint and Gunter Wanger, in an Opel Ascona, were holding third place, but the second works Renault 5 Turbo driven by Bruno Saby and Daniel Le Saux, of France, was making up ground and was less than one minute behind.

The fastest time over the stage was recorded by the 1979 winners, Bernard Darniche and Alain Mahe, in a Lancia Stratos. They were timed at 17min 42sec, just seven seconds faster than Ragnotti, but Darniche remained rooted in eighth place.

One place in front of Darniche was Markku Alen, of Finland, in the Fiat 131 Abarth. Alen, however, was doubtful about his chances of improving his overall position.

Holmes v Spinks?

New York, Jan 29.—Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, has lined up two opponents. He has signed to meet the Canadian champion, Trevor Berbick, on April 11 in Las Vegas and has a "verbal commitment" to box Leon Spinks in May.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Andermatt	150	350	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-6
Excellent skiing conditions							
Arosa	125	170	Fair	Varied	Good	Fine	-5
North facing slopes good							
Grindelwald	100	220	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2
Good skiing down to village							
Isola 2000	25	55	Icy	Varied	Poor	Fine	4
Very badly worn and patchy							
La Plagne	150	230	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	3
Good skiing on all pistes							
Murren	160	400	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-3
Excellent skiing conditions							
St Anton	130	440	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-4
Powder on north facing slopes							
Seefeld	25	195	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-2
Powder on hard base							
Tignes	200	280	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	4
Very hard base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	90	200	Pwdr	—	-6
Braunwald	190	230	Pwdr	—	-6
Champéry	40	150	Pwdr	—	-7
Château d'Oex	90	200	Pwdr	—	-10
Disentis	150	250	Pwdr	—	-2
Engelberg	130	300	Pwdr	—	-13
Gstaad	120	300	Pwdr	—	-11
Kandersteg	80	200	Pwdr	—	-10
Klosters	140	220	Pwdr	—	-15
Laax-Flims	110	220	Pwdr	—	-16
Lenk	110	230	Pwdr	—	-16
Lenzerheide	110	220	Pwdr	—	-3
Les Diablerets	100	180	Pwdr	—	-13
Pontresina	50	80	Pwdr	—	-19
St Cergue	150	190	Pwdr	—	-7
Savognin	40	110	Pwdr	—	-13
Unterwasser	150	200	Pwdr	—	-11
GERMANY					
Berchtesgaden	80	170	Pwdr	—	-7
Garmisch	100	130	Pwdr	—	-9
Hindelang	100	180	Pwdr	—	-7
Kleinwalsertal	180	330	Pwdr	—	-10
Mittenwald	80	160	Pwdr	—	-12
Oberammergau	90	190	Pwdr	—	-3
Oberstaufen	100	120	Pwdr	—	-7
Oberstdorf	120	250	Pwdr	—	-7

Squash rackets

New business to challenge tomatoes and tourism

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

The sixth Guernsey Open tournament, the second sponsored by John Player and Sons, began at St Peter Port yesterday evening in an environment far removed, in every sense, from the average prize money promotion. Local publicity, for example, draws attention to a tomato museum, a strawberry farm, a candleworks, the house where the exiled Victor Hugo wrote *Les Miserables*, an underground hospital built for the Germans during the occupation, a speed limit of 35 mph and the non-existence of VAT. Guernsey, obviously, is different.

The players tend to come back here, among them Glen Brumby, 20, of Adelaide, who already ranks in the world's top 20. "John le Lievre, who is playing here this week, is a close friend of mine and this is his home", Brumby said yesterday. "In any case, Guernsey is a beautiful place and the people here have been very friendly and helpful. It's good to come back to a place like this."

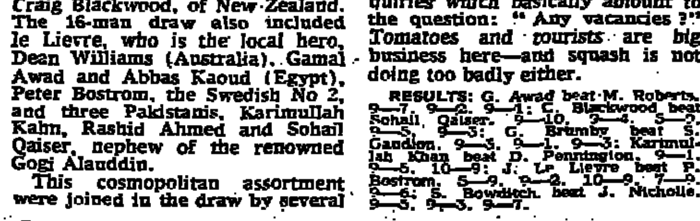
Brumby is competing here for the third time, as are his compatriot, Steven Bowditch, and Craig Blackwood, of New Zealand. The 16-man draw also included le Lievre, who is the local hero, Dean Williams (Australia), Gamal Awad and Abbas Kaoud (Egypt), Peter Bostrom, the Swedish No 2, and three Pakistanis, Karimullah Kahn, Rashid Ahmed and Sohail Qaiser, nephew of the renowned Gogi Alauddin.

This cosmopolitan assortment were joined in the draw by several Guernsey juniors, a breed we have come to respect, because their prominence in British squash is vastly out of proportion to the size of the local population. They included Simon Gaudion and Jason Nicholle (first-round opponents for Brumby and Bowditch), who have been chosen to play for England in the under-16 home international series.

"Originally the tournament was run to help our players", Reg Harbour, coach and joint owner of the King's Club, said. "It was timed so that we could pick up the losing quarter-finalists from the British amateur championship, but since then it has become more popular and we have gradually managed to improve the standard. We tried to get non-argumentative players, so that we can have a nice tournament."

In addition to the prize money, which rises to £500 for the winner, the eight seeds are provided with free accommodation and transport from London. They are aware, too, that this is an official International Squash Players' Association tournament, from which they earn ranking points. All in all it is easy to understand why the King's Club staff have to deal with so many long-distance inquiries which basically amount to the question: "Any vacancies?" Tomatoes and tourists are big business here—and squash is not doing too badly either.

RESULTS: G. Awad beat M. Roberts, 9—7, 9—2, 9—1; C. Blackwood beat Sohail Qaiser, 9—10, 3—4, 5—2, 9—5, 9—3; G. Brumby beat S. Gaudion, 9—3, 9—1, 9—3; Karimullah Khan beat D. Pennington, 9—1, 9—5, 10—9; J. Le Lievre beat P. Bostrom, 5—9, 9—2, 10—9, 7—9, 9—6; S. Bowditch beat J. Nicholle, 9—3, 9—3, 9—7.



Errors force Briars out

By Richard Eaton

Gawain Briars, No 1 in England and No 2 seed in the British under-23 Open championship, was beaten 9—4, 3—9, 9—3, 9—3, in the semi-final round by Ross Norman, No 2 in New Zealand and No 3 seed, at Wembley last night. It could not really be described as a surprise, for it was Norman who set off Briars's year of moderate results when he beat him on the same court in the British Open last March.

"Frankly it was a harder match then", the New Zealander said. It was less a comment on his own improvement from No 28 to No 16 in the world than upon the depressing stream of errors that tumbled from Briar's racket.

Norman now plays Jahangir Khan, who was inevitably the victor in the other semi final match, beating his cousin Zahir Husain Khan 9—7, 9—1, 9—5 in 33 minutes, his longest match of the championship. Jahangir must be the winner today too, even though at No 10 the Pakistani is only one place above Briars in the world list.

He beat Norman for the loss of only a handful of points in the final of the Hashim Khan trophy in Pakistan in November and the odds are heavily on something similar happening here. The devasting improvement in Jahangir's stroke repertoire, the steady improvement in his already considerable speed and the maintenance of a remarkable temperament all showed how quickly out of date the computer has become.

Briars, though, may not lose any further ground in the world rankings because this is not a tournament that counts on the computer; but the deterioration in his confidence may be just as important. He made seven unforced errors to lose the first game, four more in the third, and then six in the fourth—more than a Hunt or a Jahangir might make in a tournament.

Briars, of course, is a different kind of player from either. He played most of the best squash, too, with characteristically clever dropshots and nicely disguised kills, but most of that came in a rush from 0—3 in the second game which he went through to win in one hand—and then the charge stopped.

SEMI-FINAL round: Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat Zahir Husain Khan (Pakistan), 9—7, 9—1, 9—5; R. Norman (NZ) beat G. Briars (GB), 9—4, 3—9, 9—3, 9—3.

Racing

Father Delaney has Easterby blessing

By Michael Seely

Tim Easterby will ride Father Delaney and Night Nurse for his father, Peter, in the two big races at Doncaster tomorrow because Alan Brown is serving his sentence of a three-day suspension for careless riding at Newton Abbot. Father Delaney, the winner of five races last season, has disappointed twice recently, but his trainer is hopeful that blinkers will liven up the nine-year-old.

The sponsors reported good support yesterday for Father Delaney and also for Tragus in the William Hill Yorkshire Steeplechase. The two horses are now joint favourite at 6-1. Night Nurse runs in the Mansion House Handicap but faces stiff opposition in the shape of Rathgorman, Beacon Light and Gambling Prince.

Easterby, the champion trainer, said that he had not decided whether to run Little Owl, the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite, in tomorrow's Double Steeplechase at Cheltenham or whether to keep Jim Wilson's progressive young chaser in reserve for the £17,000 Freshfields Holiday Handicap at Sandown next weekend. "Both races are very tempting and it takes a deal of thinking about."

Easterby was in good form before flying to Texas for a holiday on Monday. The usual adverse rumours are circulating about Sea Pigeon, who is a firm favourite to repeat last year's triumph in the Champion Hurdle. "They tell me he's got a leg", he said. "As far as I'm concerned, he's all right because he's got four!"

Fred Winter, Easterby and Michael Dickinson are vying for the lead in the trainer's table. Winter has already collected over £100,000 in prize money. Easterby and Dickinson are close to their half centuries, having won 49 and 48 races respectively.

All three are in action today. Winter, who said at Huntingdon yesterday that Rough and Tumble cannot yet be considered a certain runner for the Grand National, has an outstanding chance of taking the Butterscotch Handicap Hurdle with Toy Master. The form shown by this six-year-old when runner-up to Cisto in a competitive race at Sandown looks good enough to take care of today's rivals.

Easterby and Dickinson are in opposition in the first division of the Knottingley Novices' Hurdle where their runners are Torreon and Happy Voyage. Both horses won last time out, but better value may be represented by Flight Sheet who shaped with promise in Torreon's race at Stockton and is now 7 lbs better off at the weights.

Dickinson looks set for a good afternoon. After her victory at Catterick, Rednael should be capable of defying a 4 lb penalty in the Barnby Moor Handicap. Hareshaw Linn won in convincing style at the last meeting on this track and should be capable of recording his fourth victory off the reel at the expense of Winter's candidate, Blake.

The Howard-trained My Buck can win the Girvan Handicap at Ayr but Bregawn, Dickinson's runner, in the Vaux Breweries Novices' Qualifier at Doncaster, may not jump well enough to cope with Roddy Armytage's sure-footed young stayer, Two Swallows.

Hopeful Answer again: Hopeful Answer, a $250,000 earner on the flat in Canada, scored for the third time over fences this season when winning the St Neots Handicap Chase at Huntingdon yesterday. Toby Balding, Hopeful Answer's trainer, is now looking for a suitable chase for the eight-year-old over the Mildmay fences at the Grand National meeting.

Hopeful Answer hit the front at the last fence, from Martial Night, and carried Brian Reilly to a smooth six-length win, with Markdail running into third place, a further 20 lengths back.

Mrs Juan Ceballo, one of Fred Winter's long-standing owners, enjoyed mixed fortunes. Major Swallow won the Tote Novices Chase, but another of her horses, Black Rod, failed to live up to expectations. Starting a warm favourite for division one of the Offord Novices Hurdle, Black Rod hit the third last flight and dropped out of contention.

John Francome brought him on the scene again at the finish, but he was beaten five and a half lengths behind Falkland Palace. Bob Davies produced Falkland Palace between the last two flights, and the combination held off the late challenge of Happy Hector.

STATE OF GOING (official): Doncaster: Good. Ayr: Good to soft. Tomorrow: Cheltenham: Chase course: Good. Hurdle course: Good to soft. [illegible]

Huntingdon results

1.45 (1.50) OFFORD HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £690: 2m)

FALKLAND PALACE [illegible]

[illegible]

2.15 (2.20) ST NEOTS CHASE (Handicap: [illegible])

HOPEFUL ANSWER [illegible]

[illegible]

2.45 (2.48) SAWTRY OPPORTUNITY HURDLE [illegible]

MISS KUWAIT [illegible]

[illegible]

3.15 (3.20) TOTE CHASE (Novices: £1,553: 2m)

MAJOR SWALLOW [illegible]

[illegible]

3.45 (3.48) WYTON CHASE (Handicap: [illegible])

MISTER JOHNNIE [illegible]

[illegible]

Taunton

[illegible]

Doncaster programme

1.30 KNOTTINGLEY HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £690: 2½m)

[illegible]

2.0 JANUARY HURDLE (Handicap: £1,394: 2m 150yd)

[illegible]

2.30 WARDS' BREWERY CHASE (Qualifier: Novices: £1,287: 3m 122yd)

[illegible]

3.0 BUTTERSCOTCH HURDLE (Handicap: £1,303: 2¼m)

[illegible]

403 0000 Penscynor, J. Bingham, 5-11-3 Margarson 4
406 2102 Toy Master, F. Winter, 6-11-1 .. Francome
408 0214 Malicious Red (D), J. Leigh, 5-10-6 Coogan 4
410 3401 Charter Flight (D, B), M. H. Easterby, 6-10-5 Mr Easterby
415 0-023 Cambro Boy, R. Hobson, 5-10-0 .. Shaw 7
418 0000 Pomme Star, J. Furman, 5-10-0 .. O'Neill

[illegible]

3.30 BARNBY MOOR CHASE (Handicap: £2,138: 3¼m)

[illegible]

4.0 KNOTTINGLEY HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £690: 2½m)

[illegible]

602 0314 Boys Division (D, B), T. Forster, 5-11-7 Smith Eccles
603 2010 Guinness Grove, J. Blundell, 6-11-7 Dutton 4
604 111 Hareshaw Linn (C), M. Dickinson, 6-11-7 Carmody
606 0-421 Pebble Path, N. Crump, 5-11-7 .. Scudamore
611 0-fpp Bishop's Jewel, W. D. Francis, 8-11-0 Lord Fitzgerald 4
613 p-0 Chance Command, P. Calver, 6-11-0 Tinkler
615 Dom Perignon, M. Dickinson, 6-11-0 Earnshaw 4
619 0000 Historic House, E. Carter, 6-11-0 .. Charlton
620 0/0- Jim Butt, G. Lee, 7-11-0 .... Tuck
621 00- Manhattan Island, M. Dickinson, 6-11-0 Bradley 7
626 00 Royal Don, J. Leigh, 6-11-0 .... Coogan 4
628 Spring Moon, D. Morley, 5-11-0 B. R. Davies
631 12 Blake (D), F. Winter, 4-10-7 .... Francome
636 000 Midadora (B), T. Kersey, 5-10-0 .. Kersey

9-4 Blake, 7-2 Hareshaw Linn, 5-1 Boys Division, Pebble Path, 8-1 Guinness Grove, 12-1 Spring Moon, 16-1 Dom Perignon, Manhattan Island, 20-1 others.

* Doubtful runner.

Doncaster selections

By Michael Seely

1.30 Flight Sheet. 2.0 Anointed. 2.30 Two Swallows. 3.0 TOY MASTER is specially recommended. 3.30 Rednael. 4.0 Hareshaw Linn.

Ayr programme

1.45 BARR HURDLE (Div I: novices: £641: 2m)

[illegible]

2.15 SPITTAL HILL CHASE (Handicap: £1,768: 3m 110yd)

[illegible]

2.45 STRAITON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,295: 2½m)

[illegible]

3.15 GIRVAN CHASE (Handicap: £1,733: 2m)

1 04fp Carrow Boy (CD), W. Durkan, 9-12-6 Mulligan 7
2 4p23 Even Melody (CD), N. Crump, 12-11-2 Hawkins
3 1-241 My Buck (D), M. Dickinson, 9-10-12 .. Whyte
4 211-0 *Palace Guard (D), S. Shields, 9-10-11 —
5 0f00 Don't Forget (CD), W. A. Stephenson, 7-10-8 R. Lamb

[illegible]

3.45 SORN CHASE (Novices handicap: £1,430: 2m)

[illegible]

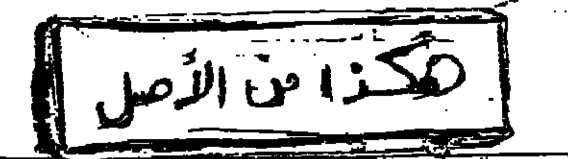
4.15 BARR HURDLE (Div II: novices: £657: 2m)

[illegible]

Ayr selections

By Michael Seely

1.45 Carriage Way. 2.15 Sebastian V. 2.45 True Friend. 3.15 My Buck. 3.45 Mr Kidd. 4.15 Chateau Royal.



Cricket

Hard-hitting Gooch may find sea a tempting target

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
St Vincent, Jan 29

How good is Gooch? Being on his first visit to the West Indies, other than with youth or scratch sides, there is much interest in him, and the question is frequently asked. He plays his first innings of the tour here in the match starting tomorrow against Windward Islands.

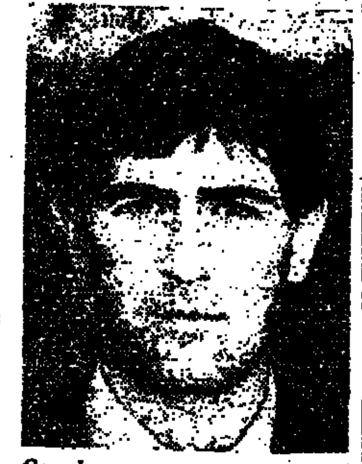
Some great players have started their Test careers with a duck. Gooch went one better by beginning his with a pair—against Australia at Edgbaston in 1975 when England were at a low ebb after having been put to flight the previous winter by Thomson and Lillee. He was 21 at the time, though looking already like the village policeman. (It would have been a nice easy-going village where he was the bobby.) In a sense his appearance was against him: being heavily built and of measured tread he looked as though he might have trouble adjusting to the often fierce demands of Test cricket. In Essex they never doubted his ability, only his motivation.

As a batsman in this modern game of fast and medium-paced bowling his size has been an asset, and after going back to Essex after his first failures for England he has made steady progress. Behind the lackadaisical manner lies a quiet determination, though still, as when he ran himself out when he was 99 against Australia at Melbourne last February, his apparent unconcern is sometimes his undoing.

When, in his twenty-second Test match, his first hundred for England did eventually come—against West Indies at Lord's last summer—it was rightly hailed as one of the finest innings played for England since the war; it deserves a place in the first half-dozen. Against the most relentless fast attack in the history of cricket he scored 123 out of 165 in three and a half hours and such commanding driving had not been seen for England since Dexter's day. Because of the respective quality of the two attacks Gooch's 123 was of equal merit with Richards's brilliant 145 in the same match.

A Test record of 1,401 runs at an average of 33.35, with only this one hundred, may not seem much. Gooch is, however, a vital member of Botham's side, being sounder than Gower, whose average in only three fewer Test matches is 11 points higher, and more experienced than Gatting, Rose and Butcher.

The answer to the original question is that Gooch is now a very good player—as good, I think, as Amiss was when he had such a prolific tour out here seven years ago. In five Test matches Amiss scored 663 runs at an average of 82.87, though not of course against any four fast bowlers the West Indian selectors will care to choose from Roberts, Holding, Marshall, Garner, Daniel, Croft and Clarke.



Gooch: now a very good player.

Although it rained in sheets in St Vincent last night, the ground was just well enough covered to allow the England players to use an old match wicket for this morning's practice. I can think of no ground in the world which stages first-class cricket and is nearer to the sea than this one. It backs on to a rather dirty beach but a sea of the deepest blue. Swansea could come next; in a somewhat less romantic setting, with Hastings and Scarborough not far behind.

There are a good many others within a third of a mile or so of the sea—such as Madras, Hove, Durban, Napier and Bombay—but no other where the water laps the boundary walls. It would be good to see Gooch hitting one into Greathead Bay tomorrow before Richards does so in next week's International.

New Zealand keep their heads to win

From Dilip Rao
Sydney, Jan 29

Ominous clouds stampeded Australia into a disastrous start and ultimate defeat as they tried to get on terms with an asking rate of just under four and three-quarter runs an over in the first match of the best of five World Series Cup final against New Zealand. The threatened rain did arrive but did not stop play, and New Zealand drove home the advantage they had gained earlier to win by 78 runs. The fact that Australia were caught in no man's land must not detract from New Zealand's triumph, for initially they were placed at a disadvantage by the loss of the toss. As in any New Zealand achievement in this competition, Hadlee played a very large part, but he was not the only hero. Wright and Howarth (as captain and batsman) distinguished themselves as well.

So dark were the skies when the captains tossed that it seemed inevitable the match would be curtailed and probably decided by the yardstick of a faster scoring rate. In the circumstances Chappell eagerly gave New Zealand first innings so that Australia could pace their innings according to the demand of their opponents' score as well as the weather.

New Zealand also appreciated the necessity to score quickly from the start of their innings and while they tried their utmost to fit this demand, they kept their heads. They needed to, for the pitch was receptive to seam, and Hogg, Walker and Lillee bowled accurately.

Wright and Edgar put on 45 for the first wicket from 15 overs before Edgar edged a drive off Lillee and was caught at second slip by Walters. Wright offered himself up in similar fashion in Lillee's next over, but this time the ball went at an awkward height and Walters, with no time to make up his mind whether to take the catch with his fingers facing upwards or to the ground, dropped it.

New Zealand now flourished. Wright played with excellent judgment and though Howarth was beaten countless times by the moving ball, he played some blue-blooded shots in between. They added 108 and after they left Hadlee and Cairns struck some lusty blows to boost the score to 233, New Zealand's best against Australia in this series.

Rain could be seen to be pouring down on the neighbouring suburb of Randwick as Australia began their reply and Australia's first target was to score 71 runs in the first 15 overs of their innings. They were in touch with it over the first six overs but before the sixth was completed an inspired, almost ferocious, Hadlee had dismissed Wood hooking.

NEW ZEALAND

J. G. Wright, b Chappell	81
B. A. Edgar, c Walters, b Lillee	21
*G. P. Howarth, c Border, b Walker	47
J. V. Coney, c and b Pascoe	0
M. G. Burgess, l-b-w, b Lillee	15
R. J. Hadlee, not out	23
B. L. Cairns, c Walker, b Pascoe	18
B. McKechnie, not out	1
Extras (b 18, w 7, n-b 2)	27
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	233

†I. D. S. Smith, M. C. Snedden and E. J. Chatfield did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1—45, 2—148, 3—152, 4—172, 5—198, 6—231.
BOWLING: Hogg, 10—1—37—0; Walker, 10—4—31—1; Lillee, 10—0—47—2; Pascoe, 10—0—18—2; Chappell, 10—0—45—1.

AUSTRALIA

G. M. Wood, c Burgess, b Hadlee	13
M. F. Kent, c Howarth, b Hadlee	12
†R. W. Marsh, c Coney, b Chatfield	0
*G. S. Chappell, c Wright, b Chatfield	31
K. J. Hughes, l-b-w, b Hadlee	0
A. R. Border, c Coney, b McKechnie	55
K. D. Walters, b McKechnie	20
D. K. Lillee, c Cairns, b McKechnie	7
M. H. N. Walker, c Smith, b Hadlee	4
R. M. Hogg, c Smith, b Hadlee	1
L. S. Pascoe, not out	3
Extras (b 2, l-b 6, w 1)	9
Total (39.3 overs)	155

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—28, 2—28, 3—28, 4—28, 5—95, 6—135, 7—145, 8—147, 9—148, 10—155.
BOWLING: Chatfield, 10—3—38—2; Hadlee, 8.3—4—26—5; McKechnie, 9—1—23—3; Snedden, 6—1—25—0; Cairns, 6—0—34—0.

Football

Profits from cup run could help to realize Enfield's long term plans

Enfield's lucrative FA Cup run has provided a platform for their long-term aim for a place in the Football League. The Isthmian League club were beaten 3—0 in a fourth round replay with Barnsley on Wednesday night, but the 35,000 crowd at neutral White Hart Lane will enable Enfield to go ahead with improvements to their compact Southbury Road stadium in North London.

Alan Diment, the secretary, estimates that Enfield are £35,000 better off as a result of their two matches against Barnsley, of the third division. He said: "We already had one or two blueprints drawn up for ground expansion and improvement, but the cup bonus means we can do a lot more. Our long-term target is to win a place in the League. We know there will be opposition from the other London clubs, but we are ambitious."

Enfield, who will play in the Alliance League next season, collected £12,000 from last Saturday's trip to Barnsley. Receipts from the replay at Tottenham—Enfield switched the venue because their own ground has a capacity of only 7,000—totalled £72,000 and Enfield's share will be about £23,000.

Eddie McCluskey, the Enfield manager, said: "We were a credit to non-league football, but our season could go a bit flat now. We go to Staines on Saturday, when there will probably be one man and a dog in the ground." Asked about the possibility of becoming a League manager, Mr McCluskey said: "No thank you. League managers live in fear—and I don't like fear. I am settled at Enfield, where I can combine my duties with my other job as a physical education teacher."

Barnsley won with two goals by Aylott and one by Glavin, while Enfield hit the woodwork three times. Norman Hunter, the Barnsley manager said: "Enfield were a bit unlucky, but they let us in when they started to push men forward. There was a lot of pressure on us. The lads are relieved it's over—and so am I."

Tom Ritchie, who completed his £200,000 move to Sunderland yesterday, said farewell to Bristol City with two goals in the 5—0 victory over Carlisle, which earns City a lucrative fifth round trip to Nottingham Forest.

Ritchie said: "What a way to go, though I have no regrets about moving. I am ambitious and now have the chance to play in the first division once again." Bob Houghton, the City manager, said: "I'm not exactly jumping for joy at the prospect of losing Ritchie, but the club needs the money."

Ritchie will make his Sunderland debut at Southampton tomorrow, but his team will be without Chris Turner, their goalkeeper. He fractured a jaw in his side's 2—0 first division victory over Manchester United on Wednesday and is likely to be out of action for five weeks. He will be replaced by Barry Siddall.

Tom McAnearney, the fourth division's longest-serving manager, has been dismissed by Aldershot after nearly nine years at the club.

Wednesday's results

FA CUP: Fourth round replays: Bristol City 5, Carlisle United 0; Enfield 0, Barnsley 3; Exeter City 3, Leicester City 1.
FIRST DIVISION: Sunderland 2, Manchester United 0.
FOURTH DIVISION: Bradford City 1, Peterborough United 1.
SCOTTISH CUP: third round replays: Clyde (1) 2, Partick Thistle (2) 4 (Winners away to Dundee United); Clydebank (2) 5, East Fife (1) 4 (Winners away to Kilmarnock); Cowdenbeath (2) 4, Arbroath (0) 0 (Winners home to East Stirling); Dunfermline (0) 1, Hibernian (1) 2 (Winners at home to Falkirk); Hearts (0) 1, Morton (1) 3 (Winners home to Aberdeen); Motherwell (2) 2, Stenhousemuir (0) 1 (Winners home to Dumbarton).
RUGBY UNION: Representative match: United Banks 22, Foreign Exchange Dealers 15. UAU Championship: Quarter-final round: Bristol 6, Manchester 21; Exeter 3, Loughborough 4; Nottingham 7, Durham 29; Swansea 16, UWIST 3. Club matches: Cambridge University 20, Royal Navy 5; Ebbw Vale 10, Tredegar 9; Newport 14, Cross Keys 3; Oxford University 7, Combined London Old Boys 26; Pontypool 22, Pontypridd 11; Rosslyn Park 37, The Army 4.

Gradis baptism of fire smoulders on at Palace

Gerry Francis was transfer listed and Shaun Brooks named for his first full game as repercussions of the Crystal Palace takeover continued yesterday. Francis, the former England captain, spoke to the club's new manager Dario Gradi and made his position clear. "I hadn't spoken to Francis before in my life, but in view of what I have read I wasn't unprepared," Mr Gradi said after agreeing to the request.

Mr Gradi, who succeeded Malcolm Allison as manager this week, had already agreed to Clive Allen and Peter Nicholas being put up for sale—although both join the 19-year-old Brooks in the side for tomorrow's game at Middlesbrough. Francis, who has stayed away all week with influenza, had already been omitted from the match at Middlesbrough. When he recovers Mr Gradi wants him to return to the team and play until a satisfactory offer is received. "He told me that he had been thinking about his future and had decided that it would be best to go," Mr Gradi said.

The good news for Mr Gradi is that Vince Hilaire and Jerry Murphy who were both on the transfer list have told the new manager that when they're fit again they would like to battle to get their first team places back.

Hilaire has asked to play half-a-game in the reserves at Dulwich Hamlet, although he has not trained for two weeks because of a strained back muscle.

The absence of Murphy has left the way open for Brooks, the son of the England inside forward.

"Brooks is one player who must appreciate me coming here", joked Mr Gradi, who left team selection this week to the reserve coach Ernie Walley, the caretaker manager until Mr Allison's arrival. Mr Walley also included another youngster Steve Lovell.

Supporters of Mr Gradi's former club Wimbledon will oppose any plan to move their team's home matches to Crystal Palace next season. Although the Palace managing director Ron Noades, who resigned as chairman of Wimbledon this week, has said the two clubs will share Selhurst Park, the Wimbledon supporters club have called an open meeting next Monday to make their views known.

Mr Allison wanted: Malcolm Allison is wanted by the Alliance League club Yeovil for one month as coaching consultant. Yeovil, who parted company with their manager Barry Lloyd a fortnight ago, believed Mr Allison's expertise could help them overcome a sticky patch.

Snooker

Mountjoy hands it to Higgins on a plate

By Sydney Friskin

Alex Higgins was in irrepressible form last evening at the Wembley Conference Centre, where in an hour and 25 minutes he defeated Doug Mountjoy, the Welsh champion, by five frames to one to reach the semi-final round of the Masters snooker championship, sponsored by Benson and Hedges. Two years ago Mountjoy had lost to Higgins by the same score in the semi final round.

An enchanted crowd of nearly 2,000 loudly applauded Higgins at the end of a match in which he found the freedom to do almost what he liked, sometimes permitting himself a little extravagance. It was the finest productivity deal the game could have had for many a day.

Except in the second frame Higgins was put under no pressure by Mountjoy, who from the start of the tournament had been worried by a nervous facial affliction. He must have had difficulty sighting the ball judged by the number of easy straight pots he had missed. Several easy situations were, in consequence, presented to Higgins, who was modest enough to say "I didn't play that well".

Curiously enough Mountjoy succeeded with the more difficult shots in that second frame, particularly from longer range, winning a tense struggle for the pink which decided the frame in his favour. But Higgins, with breaks of 51 and 36 in the third frame and a clearance break of 31 in the fourth went into the interval leading 3—1. He had no trouble winning the fifth and made 71 on his first visit to the table in the sixth. When he followed this up with 30, Mountjoy approached him with an outstretched hand.

Wednesday's play ended, close on midnight, with a brilliant recovery by John Spencer, the first winner of this event in 1975. After dropping the first two frames he beat Dennis Taylor, of Northern Ireland, by five frames to two. The scores (Spencer first) were: 41—68, 35—68, 60—58, 59—19, 86—24, 89—21, 119—0.

Taylor looked extremely confident at the start, ending the first frame with a break of 42 and taking an early grip on the second with a 56. But Spencer steadied his game, just won the third frame and found his touch to take the fourth. After the interval he went from strength to strength with a superb break of 65 in the sixth frame and was the absolute master of the seventh, ending it with a clearance break of 5.. Spencer qualified to meet Ray Reardon in the quarter-final round.

QUARTER FINAL ROUND: A. Higgins (Northern Ireland) beat D. Mountjoy (Wales) 5—1 (Higgins first): 61—27, 51—63, 110—0, 83—40, 72—57, 101—0.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Looking good: Alex Higgins on his way to victory against Doug Mountjoy, of Wales, at the Wembley Conference Centre.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Re: FEATURE FABRICS Ltd. (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before Friday 6th February, 1981 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their Debts or Claims to the undersigned Bernard Phillips, F.C.A., at 76, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, the JOINT LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such Debts are proved.
Dated this 21st day of January, 1981.
BERNARD PHILLIPS. (Chartered Accountant)

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 1875 T of 1979
In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of TATPEN Limited Plaintiffs and CONSTANZ JEWELLERY CO. Limited Defendants In the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948.
A PETITION to WIND UP the above-named company Constanz Jewellery Co. Limited presented on 8th January 1981 by Tatpen Limited of 7 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1 claiming to be a creditor of the Company will be heard at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 16th February 1981. Any creditor or contributory wishing to oppose or support must ensure that written notice reaches the undersigned by 1600 hours on Friday the 13th February 1981. A copy of the petition will be supplied by the undersigned on payment of the prescribed charge.
THOS. BOYD WHITE, of 302 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8AB. Solicitor for the Petitioner.

Re: ERNE TRANSPORT (BROWNHILLS) Ltd and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AH, on Friday, the 6th February, 1981 at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 22nd day of January, 1981.
MONTAGUE JAMES DAVIS Director

In the matter of HORFORD ASPHALT SPECIALISTS (LEICESTER) Limited. By order of the High Court, dated the 30th day of January, 1981, MICHAEL ANTHONY JORDAN of Guildhall House, 81/87 Gresham St., London EC2V 7DS has been appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above-named Company without a COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION.
Dated this 22nd day of January, 1981.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that RASIK and MANJULABEN RABHERU of The Turrets, 18 Georgian Way, Harrow on the Hill, are applying to the Home Secretary for NATURALISATION and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts to The Under Secretary of State, Home Office (Nationality Division), Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 2BY.

THE BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD hereby gives advance notice, in accordance with Section 54 of the Transport Act, 1962, that they plan, subject to the provisions of Section 56 of the Act, to withdraw the passenger service between Ashburys West Junction and Phillips Park No 1 Junction and Dore West Junction and Dore South Junction.
Euston Square
PO Box 100
London NW1 2DZ.

Notice is hereby given that ANANT RABHERU of The Turrets, 18 Georgian Way, Harrow on the Hill, is applying to the Home Secretary for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts to The Under Secretary of State, Home Office (Nationality Division), Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 2BY.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities—The Family Planning Association (Unincorporated) and other Charities.
The Charity Commissioners propose to make a SCHEME for this charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: 220389-A4-L1) at 14 Ryder Street, London, SW1Y 6AH. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today.

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Enigmatic combination of intellect and sentiment

Loulou (X)
Camden Plaza

The Jazz Singer (A)
ABC Shaftesbury Av

My Bodyguard (A)
Studio Oxford Circus; Plaza 2; Odeon, Kensington

The Lady in Red (X)
London Pavilion

"Carry on Cripple"
National Film Theatre

Although *L'enfance nue* and *La gueule ouverte* were shown at London Festivals, and the latter appeared in the BBC Film International series, *Loulou* is the first film by Maurice Pialat to have a commercial release here. To give us a quick run-down on the career of this former painter, occasional actor and (since the age of 40) director, the NFT is presenting next week a complete retrospective of the six films he has made since 1968.

They characteristically deal with the dramatic moments in the lives of unremarkable people: an unwanted child (*L'enfance nue*), a failing affair (*Nous ne vieillirons pas ensemble*), a woman dying of cancer (*La gueule ouverte*). If Pialat's slices of life are small, he probes them very deep; and his most remarkable quality is to give to his actors—whether they are non-professionals or knowing performers like Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu in *Loulou*—the unpredictability of improvisation (though Pialat in fact never improvises) and the innocence of self-awareness of everyday life.

Loulou is a film about class, though the distinctions are observed not primarily at an economic level but in the areas of intellect and sentiment. Loulou is a big, beery, oafish layabout; but he offers a middle-class girl (Huppert) uninhibited, uncomplicated and non-stop sex which is beyond the possibilities of her preoccupied, bourgeois, rationalizing boyfriend (Guy Marchand). She moves in with Loulou, even though it is she who must pay for their shabby hotel room.

As the affair drags on through tiffs, accidents, encounters, interruptions, infidelities, a visit to the country and Loulou's family roots, the relationship is subtly illuminated.

At first Loulou appears only as a slop, a working-class male chauvinist, wielding his sex like a whip to dominate the girl. By the end of the film we see how he is the vulnerable one, unprotected and uncomprehending. After meeting his family, with all their recklessness, impetuosity, passive kindliness, unpredictability, the girl aborts the baby for which, with his naive parental instinct, he yearns. She is beyond his understanding. It is hard to know whether to see optimism or defeat in the final scene, as Huppert helps a dead drunk Loulou back home to bed.

If it was a dubious notion in the first place to remake *The Jazz Singer* (the 1953 version with Danny Thomas should have been ample warning) it was an even bigger mistake to update it to 1980. Samson Raphaelson's original play of 1925 was suggested by the early life of Al Jolson. In 1927, when it was first filmed, the issues which motivate the plot—the problems of Jewish immigrants trying to integrate into American society, the opposition of the new life in the new land to the old racial and religious traditions—were still fairly close to the memory.

In 1980 though it all seems part of a long-ago past; the singer's sense of guilt is barely comprehensible and the lachrymose old cantor who rends his garments because his son goes off to showbiz and a *shiksa* girl is as anachronistic as Rip Van Winkle. It makes matters no more credible when the old man recollects tearfully how Momma (remember—in the original she was the one to whom the screen's first spoken words were addressed) was gunned down by terrorists somewhere or other.

Maybe the story does not really matter any more, since it is really only a device for one long Neil Diamond concert. But there is another thing: surely the question of trade description enters into calling the film *The Jazz Singer*, since, whatever else he is, Neil Diamond is not that. He is what is called in the business (I believe) MOR, or middle-of-the-road between rock and pop. He has developed a sort of family-style rock, with the rough edges removed so that mums and dads (and even weepy old cantors, with a little persuasion) can clap along.

As a screen personality Neil Diamond is pleasant—not very glamorous or good-looking but amiable, and smart enough (under Richard Fleischer's direction) not to stray outside the small range of what he can do as an actor. The real acting is left to Lord Olivier, doing one of his favourite ethnic impersonations and whimpering a good deal. The other major part, the *shiksa* girl manager for whom the singer rather casually abandons his home-body Jewish wife, is played by Lucie Arnaz, a pleasant, bouncy girl. There is also an amusing characterization by Sully Boyer of a fatherly impresario, much in the mould of our own Sir Lew.

Ironically, if there is one scene that works in this oddly misconceived film, it is the only bit that comes straight from the original—the shameless tear-jerker sequence where the singer returns to the synagogue to sing the *Kol Nidre* in place of his sick father. I hope that Samson Raphaelson, coming 85 years old, collects handsomely for the use of his title and his tears.

Tony Bill was a pleasant juvenile actor, a clever producer (*The Sting* was his film) and now emerges as a sympathetic director with *My Bodyguard*. It is a surprisingly winning film, even though it is at bottom no more than a yarn from a schoolboy comic, about the new boy who befriends the school loner, and how after various adventures they worst the school bullies and free the class from a reign of terror.

Within the limits of the story, though, the children are vividly characterized. The hero (Chris Makepeace) is a bright, adventurous, clumsily kindly lad; his "bodyguard" is played by a sweet giant called Adam Baldwin; and there are amusing performances by Paul Quandt and Joan Cusack as, respectively, the classroom runt and everybody's friend with braced teeth.

The grownups are seen through the children's eyes with an edge of caricature. The hero's father (Martin Mull) is the manager of the Ambassador East Hotel in Chicago, plagued by a sneaky assistant and an aged, boozy and sexually voracious mother. This, of course, is Ruth Gordon, doing one of her stock turns; but her seduction of an apoplectic John Houseman is worth seeing.

Next month the National Film Theatre is presenting a season in tribute to 10 years of Roger Corman's New World production company. Turning producer in 1970, Corman extended the principles he had applied as a director, making films fast and cheaply, concentrating on "exploitation" subjects (nurses, teenagers, vampires, sex, violence, motor cycles, gangsters) but always making them intelligent and lively, and giving chances to new directors: New World *alumni* include Martin Scorsese, Peter Bogdanovitch, Francis Coppola and Monte Hellman.

The season's 30 films include *The Lady in Red*, which also opens at the London Pavilion.

Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu in *Loulou*

It was directed in 1979 by Lewis Teague, who had previously worked as an assistant director—most recently he was on Sam Fuller's *The Big Red One*. A very speculative version of the betrayal and shooting of John Dillinger, it thrusts its heroine (a convincing performance by Pamela Sue Martin, a graduate of television soap opera) through a series of typical New World trials—Depression-era poverty, unemployment, drift into crime, women's prison, whorehouse, bank robbery. It has also the New World virtues of vitality and speed; and the impressionistic representation of the period enforced by limited finance is more effective than the costly artwork of many a more pretentious film.

As its contribution to the International Year of Disabled People, the National Film Theatre is presenting a season called "Carry on Cripple"—and if the title offends your sensibilities, they say, "then you need this season". It has been arranged by Allan T. Sutherland and Steve Dwoskin: "As two people with disabilities (an epileptic and a post-polio) we've programmed this season to show some of the ways in which the makers of fiction films use us for their own ends: to startle or scare, to evoke sympathy or admiration of a kind we can do without.... In the context of this season, it is the content of the films which is to be examined. The content is *diabilities*: humans displayed as objects, turned into freaks and villains, sexless beings, pitiful bodies, superhuman heroes or just bitter, resentful people. This season considers the point that anything that treats cripples primarily as cripples dehumanizes them."

The films range from *The Best Years of Our Lives* to *Freaks*: from *The Men* and *The Miracle Worker* to *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Moulin Rouge*, *The Incredible Shrinking Man* and *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*. Of all the films, only one, Steve Dwoskin's own *Behindert*, made for German television, was actually conceived and directed by a disabled person. It is a cool, powerful film, an unsparing and unpitying examination of a relationship between a disabled man—played by Dwoskin—and an able-bodied woman.

David Robinson

LMP/Elder
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Stanley Sadie

It was sad on Wednesday to see the London Mozart Players, who under Harry Blech have been among the last to sit with first and second violins on opposite sides—the correct way for the repertory they mainly play—come into line with everyone else under their new principal guest conductor, Mark Elder. If we looked in that for a spectacular improvement in ensemble we can go on looking.

Curiously enough, they began with a piece depending largely on spatial effects, one of the Handel double concertos. Here the antiphony is between wind bands. Mr Elder duly posted his horns, oboes and bassoons to the back corners, and the effects came off well enough, though the music itself hardly did: first, because the horn parts proved just as demanding as the (otherwice rather inaccurate) programme note said they were, second because his over-detailed, over-sustained playing serves Handel indifferently. The music needs broader, sturdier rhythms.

Still, it was good to hear the LMP expanding their repertory. They played a symphony by C. P. E. Bach, music of great boldness and originality. Some of that originality was blunted by the cautious tempos and the want of urgency, not only in the brilliant arpeggios and passage-work of the first movement (where, incidentally, antiphony between firsts and seconds is composed into the music), but also in the Largo, an extraordinary piece where the yawning gap of two octaves between flutes and solo viola and cello sounds so remarkable. The yawn was there, but not much else.

Nor was Beethoven's eighth symphony quite as interesting as it ought to be. Mr Elder knows how to establish a strong, steady rhythm, and how to build a true Beethovenian tension; and he had a properly, pleasantly wind-heavy balance. But this is a score full of incident, and his unwillingness to make anything, interpretatively, of its individuality, its colour, its oddities, made him seem rigid and unobservant, which we know from the opera house he is not. It would help if he sometimes took a breath, at least mentally, at a cadence.

In Mozart's K271 concerto too Mr Elder conducted in plain, business-like fashion. Alfred Brendel played coolly, limpidly, in a slightly matter-of-fact manner at first; but the C minor Andantino drew him out, and he phrased those detail-encrusted lines richly and lovingly. Best of all was the minuet within the finale; for although the running quavers at the beginning and the end of the movement were once or twice more quavery than runny, this central episode had a loftiness and elegance that showed unmistakably the potential identity of the ornamental and the expressive.

Orpheus Ensemble
St John's

Paul Griffiths

Sandwiched between suites by Stravinsky, the last of the Orpheus Ensemble's short season of three concerts offered on Wednesday an intriguing confrontation of master and pupil. On one side was Hugh Wood embracing the violently personal rhetoric of Neruda's love poetry in translations by Christopher Logue. On the other was his Cambridge apprentice, Dave Nicholls, losing himself looking at the stars. It was a case of being gripped by furious passion or gazing in tranquillity at the circlings of pretty musical objects. Except, of course, that we did not have to make the choice.

The performances did much to heighten the contrast between the two works. Jane Ginsborg sang the Wood cycle as if she felt everything in it from personal experience: a rather worrying feat when she was being faced with the cataclysms of emotion that are contained in the text and not wholly civilized by the music.

But then the account of Nicholls's *Ensemble II—Pleiades* was all sweetness and light, though far distant light, and the percussionists who had been so rightly rebellious in the Wood turned their hands no less successfully to making the stars shine.

Notes in the programme suggested we should look in Nicholls's piece for evidence of his research interest in twentieth century American music but I was much more impressed by a kinship with recent Stockhausen. The "star music", utterly innocent and brightly scored for high woodwinds and vibraphones, kept returning with slight modifications like a very simple Stockhausen formula and there were other levels kept quite separate: music of darkness for bass clarinets, cellos and tam-tams, and a gauzy haze for violins and ringing metal percussion.

The Stravinsky again gained from the feeling of the conductor, Paul Webster, for harmonic drift and discontinuity, and also from some splendid individual players, especially Ruth Erlich on violin and James Wood on percussion in *The Soldier's Tale*.

London debuts

The recital room is a rather more demanding arena for music than the theatre, and so it seemed unduly brave of the Royal Shakespeare Company London Brass Ensemble to present themselves as a concert group. But they proved themselves well equipped for the test. They are engaging musicians and remarkably versatile ones: apart from the standard brass quintet of trumpets, horns and trombone they can offer themselves as a consort of cornetti and sackbuts, and one of the horn players even doubles on the chamber organ. All they need is a snappier name.

Perhaps, though, they need also to adjust the balance of their programme. Devoting the whole first half to seventeenth-century music served mainly to demonstrate how very difficult it is to play the cornetto in tune, and I would much rather have heard them playing Locke's splendid ceremonial music on the modern instruments they took up after the interval.

Not only was the second half easier on the ear, it was also vastly more entertaining. Victor Ewald's short symphony, a glorious piece of Russian romanticism, was lusciously done, and, if the trio by the modern Czech Vaclav Nelhybel was puzzling, the ensemble had the opportunity to show off pleasant, undemanding works by two composers associated with recent RSC productions. Stephen Oliver provided them with a five-movement suite from his music for *Nicholas Nickleby*, and from Nicholas Bicât, who wrote the score for *The Greeks*, there was a lovely summery quintet in one movement.

Variety and versatility were again key qualities in the recital given by the Gemini Ensemble of Amsterdam, so called because their six members include two pairs of twins from the same family. One might expect, therefore, that they would have few problems in establishing a corporate identity, and indeed their performances had a degree of freshness and youth that survived all the changes of instrumentation: two violins or violas, cello, flute, oboe and piano were the resources they could call upon, giving them access to a vast range of chamber music.

Their account of a Mozart flute quartet was pretty, and Brahms's A major Piano Quartet was lithe and vibrant, but I was more impressed by two pieces for less standard formations. Martinu's quartet for oboe and piano trio found them entering fully the composer's wistful world, and the *Divertimento a cinque* by Hendrik Andriessen, leaving out the piano, made one wish Bach was around to write something for them, so redolent of that composer was the oboe writing of the central adagio and the fugal business of the outer movements.

The Israeli-Canadian cellist Ofra Harnoy also showed herself a personable artist, but I cannot help wishing she had delayed her debut. She is 15, and there can be no doubt that the next few years will see the development of startling promise into mature musicianship. At the moment she is too inclined to rush at expressive meaning, too keen to risk effects that lie at the limits of her technique, and too inexperienced to find something new in the repetition of a phrase. She also needs somebody to warn her away from awful arrangements like Siloti's of Bach's "Adagio in A minor".

The other soloist of the week was the Argentine guitarist Jorge Cappa, who began unpromisingly with a group of baroque pieces, though it was not his fault that the programme leaflet contained so little information that Bach's first lute suite was twice interrupted by misplaced applause. After this unhappy experience he settled down. A minuet by Rameau found him already using the full romantic resources of guitar tone, which he expanded in the remainder of his programme. In particular, he showed an unusual ability to contrast plummy sustained notes with dancing figuration, though there was nothing flashy in his performances, even of virtuoso showpieces like Sor's Grand Solo.

Paul Griffiths

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions



Book review

Saga of a Wayward Sailor
By Tristan Jones
(Bodley Head, £5.95)

The Incredible Voyage
By Tristan Jones
(Futura, £1.65)

Tristan Jones is an adventurous Welshman who sails the world and has an engaging way of writing about his voyages. He is the kind of salty seafarer one expects to find in harbour bars, relating tales of lonely oceans although he is apt to defuse dramatic moments with a sudden absurd picture. The opening of his *Saga of a Wayward Sailor* is a good example. His cruising ketch Cresswell lies somewhere near the Arctic circle menaced by storm.

It developed rapidly, in a matter of hours; from a steady blow to a howling rage of shifting cloud, rain and wind, and the four cardinal points of the horizon galloped at me like the horsemen of the Apocalypse. And me in the middle of them. Waiting, vulnerable, patient. "Hold on to your hat, old lad, we've got some fun and games coming," I said to Nelson, my three-legged Labrador retriever (the dog had also lost an eye) as I watched the sky turn first into sombre grey, then menacing blackness with sheets of lightning electrifying the whole heaving, grey-green watery curve of the world.

And off we go on a voyage that meanders from the Arctic down the Norwegian coast and through the Swedish canals.

In the Baltic he and his unmenacing craft are arrested by the Soviet Navy on suspicion of spying. He rides this setback easily, even profiting from it by polishing up old pennies he had saved to use as washers and selling them to the guard assigned to his boat.

Tristan Jones is a fine teller of tales, an ocean-bound Romany drifting from port to port and bumping into some outrageously improbable characters. There is Sissie, the British country woman compleat who "looked like Florence Nightingale at the storming of the Alma Redoubt", her teeth as strong and white as the cliffs of Dover gleaming through a Channel fog.

Jones certainly ranks among the most travelled sailors. None of his yachts has been more than 40ft long yet some 345,000 sea miles have slid beneath their keels. He has crossed the Atlantic 18 times under sail, nine times alone and his easy and irreverent way of describing his adventures add to their fascination.

Not all of them were without an aim. His book *The Incredible Voyage* had a definite objective. He aimed to become the first man to sail the lowest and highest stretches of navigable water in the world. He began with the Dead Sea and then sailed and land-hauled his yacht to the highest waters in the world, Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. The oddysey lasted over six years and involved an improbable crossing of Middle East desert and the Mato Grosso, neither of them regular ports of call for ocean going yachtsmen, but as these two books prove, Tristan Jones is no ordinary yachtsman.

Ronald Faux

Pygmalion
Young Vic

Ned Chaillet

Movies are an industry and books are now a subsidiary industry and that is the natural order of things in the multi-national entertainment business. If it is no surprise for a novel to become a play before becoming a film, so leading us back to a "novelization" of the film, then what surprise can there be in Denise Coffey's production of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*? It was a preface, a play, a sequence of stage directions, a film and a stage musical and Miss Coffey has turned to the film script to make a nearly new play from the movie.

For those readers inclined to prefer the prefaces, where Shaw discussed the play and the characters in his own voice without the tentative disguise of characterization, Miss Coffey's production may be a soothing reward. GBS is woven into the production to introduce it, to describe the scenes which are done without the benefit of sets, and to correct our image of such characters as Freddy Eynsford Hill if we might have been misled by the casting. The actor playing Shaw weaves through the play as if in a film, his bearded head appearing in spotlight through black walls and his entire figure striding on stage to take the roles of housekeeper, taxi driver, police constable and maidservant as the occasion requires.

Smoothly staged as it is, the production does not seem odd, or not as odd as it really is. Most significantly, there is no ambiguity in the conclusion, not with Donald Eccles as Shaw to explain how Eliza married Freddy and retained an unusual interest in the career of Henry Higgins. Miss Coffey has also sandpapered away the gruesome learning process so that Eliza's transformation from Covent Garden flower girl to society lady is never unlikely.

The chief advantage of the adaptation is that it can focus on the effects of the transformation. Since the learning is a cinch for Eliza, posh without tears, it creates the opportunity for an actress to comment on the girl's violent removal from her natural environment. Only, if Lesley-Anne Down is not allowed to be seen struggling upward from working-class vowels, it is very hard to believe that she has lost touch with her roots.

Miss Down moves gracefully in the upper-class world when she arrives there, and there is no doubt that it is her natural environment. She is never as comfortable pretending to say the alphabet with a coarse accent, and that accent is often startling in its originality, its complete newness.

While the production never sounds right for very long, it usually looks marvellous. Matching the young elegance of the transformed Miss Down is the more mature elegance of Judy Campbell's Mrs Higgins. David Henry makes a youthful, but admirably rumpled Higgins. But surely the point is the sound and not the cinematic flow of Miss Coffey's new version.

Photograph by Donald Cooper

Tim Seely (left), Lesley-Anne Down, David Henry.

Robert the Devil
Nottingham University

William Mann

This year Nottingham University celebrates its centenary. Its opera group, now 25 years in existence, has long specialized in rare and curious works, and this year has picked an opera not the same age as the university, but just half a century older. *Robert le diable* was Meyerbeer's first new opera for Paris. It made his name in France, and wherever European music was favoured; it cemented the nineteenth-century genre of Grand Opera, and remained as popular in that century as it has been, by default, unpopular in ours.

The reason usually given for its present neglect is the asininity of Eugène Scribe's plot. The hero of the title was sired by one of Satan's myrmidons upon a daughter of the ducal house of Normandy (Robert was an historical character, related to our William I, though his diabolical paternity was pure gossip). His father, wearing human disguise, accompanied him everywhere, goading him into ever more socially unacceptable exploits, and magically frustrating his every kindly or humanly desirable action.

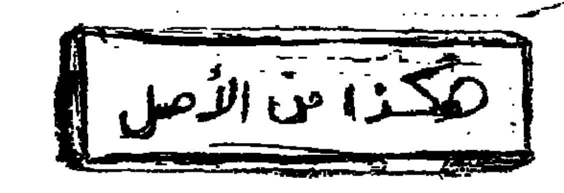
To win the hand of the Princess of Messina, he is persuaded to pluck a sacred branch from the tomb of St Rosalie (patron of musical sequences) in a ruined convent where he is pursued by a ballet of resurrected naughty nuns who try to seduce him with liquor, gambling and sex. In the end he is saved, and Bertram *alias* Old Nick descends through a trapdoor into smoke and red lights.

Ludicrous it is, but a link between *Der Freischutz* (by Meyerbeer's friend Weber) and Gounod's *Faust*. The music sometimes sounds clumsy in articulation, but is full of grand, novel, curiously fascinating stretches, and it can touch or exalt the heart. Meyerbeer's operas fell out of fashion in truth because they were designed for supremely agile and sensitive singers with glorious, not necessarily noisy, voices in an age that abounded in them. Other feats are required of today's great singers who leave the revival of *Robert le diable* to bold, enthusiastic students, and young professional singers nowhere near experienced enough to dazzle audiences into shouting for a Meyerbeer revival.

At Nottingham this week we are cheering the University Opera Group for attempting the impossible; for Nicholas Till's economical colourful production of what ought to be a lavish spectacle; for Ally Kessler, the conductor who drew steadily built climaxes from student chorus and orchestra; and for some respectable attempts at impossibly virtuoso roles by good young professional singers.

Hilary Western's Isabelle looked and sounded like a *prima donna*, outlining her ornate music without fretting over the elaborate, florid passage-work. John Rath gave the half-sympathetic portrayal of the demon Bert that Meyerbeer surely intended, and sang his music with strong, resinous bass tone, secure at the top. In the name part, Rowland Sidwell presented a hirsute, blond, leonine giant, imperturbably cheerful, with a ringing dramatic tenor voice.

Meyerbeer never expected his singers to yell, nor did these to excess, though Elizabeth Brice, as Robert's solicitous foster-sister, risked her vocal health, in the last act, with over-ambitious boosting of a nice young soprano instrument. I should commend Nottingham for cutting so little of the long five acts. They lasted over four hours, too long for singers unready for vocal steeplechasing — and their equally untrained audiences.



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Geoffrey Smith

The strategy that could stop a third party

Right-wingers have failed to fight back before, but their forces have not been mobilized effectively

The air is full of protestations from those Labour right-wingers who do not intend to leave the party. They are going to "fight, fight and fight again". They are determined to reverse the judgment of Wembley when they get to Brighton in the autumn. They are going to make the Labour Party a home fit for social democrats to live in.

There is no doubt that they mean what they say, but can they do what they promise? In setting about this task they have two principal disadvantages and one considerable asset. One disadvantage is that the more evidence accumulates of support, or even potential support, for a new party the more right-wingers will drift away from Labour—and every defection will reduce not just the numbers but the spirit of those who remain.

Already the Council for Social Democracy has won the commitment of more MPs than many people had anticipated. Most predictions had suggested that instead of 11 signatures from the Parliamentary Labour Party the number would be in single figures. There were no last-minute withdrawals and there is the possibility that when the new party goes public at the end of May or early June one or two more MPs may by then be on board—and still more if constituency parties run riot in deselecting sitting MPs.

One may expect the names of somewhere in the region of another hundred supporters for the council to be announced towards the end of next week. There will not be another MP among them; but the list will include a leading figure in local government, as well as others active in that field, and probably a leading trade unionist, with others who play a part in union affairs at regional or local level.

Labour, therefore, faces the danger of a continued seepage from the party in the country, which would reduce the chances of the right fighting back. That danger is increased with the publication of every opinion poll suggesting a bright future for the social democrats, or a social democrat-Liberal alliance, or a new centre party. Whether the assumption of the poll is politically realistic or not, there is none the less the psychological effect.

A still more serious problem for right-wingers hoping to fight back within the party is that they have so often promised to do so before, and have failed to deliver. The forces have not been mobilized effectively. Hopes of changing the balance of power on the National Executive Committee have failed because the leadership of a key union has not been able to control its delegation; or the unions have not been prepared to give such priority to the affairs of the Labour Party as to upset the intricate pattern of deals between them covering the industrial as well as the political field, whereby a union will vote for another union's nominee on one committee in return for its own person being backed elsewhere: or there has been a failure of cooperation between the party leadership and sympathetic union leaders.

An example of this occurred in July, 1979. A lunch was held at the Charing Cross Hotel with Mr James Callaghan and most of the moderate leadership of the TUC. In a group of about a dozen there were, apart from such obvious figures as Mr Terry Duffy of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr Frank Chapple of the electricians, Mr Gerald Eastwood of the patternmakers, Mr Hector Smith of the blastfurnacemen and Mr Bill Sirs of the steelworkers. Mr. Tom Jackson, who would presumably otherwise have been there, was in hospital.

The intention was to seek broad agreement on the agenda for the TUC and Labour Party conference that autumn—which included the issues which have come to plague the party, such as the reselection of MPs and the method of electing the leader. As the lunch proceeded the discussion took a broader turn on the general influence of the left. Mr Callaghan was quite encouraging, but indicated that he did not want to be in alliance with one segment of the party only.

None the less he agreed to attend a dinner with roughly the same group later that month at Dartmouth House, the headquarters of the English-Speaking Union. One change, though, was that, whereas on the first occasion there was a senior representative from the General and Municipal Workers, who said that he would be reporting back to Mr David Basnett, there was nobody from that union for the second gathering.

At the last minute, however, a message came from Mr Callaghan that he was unable to attend. Mr Duffy remarked to the company that he knew where Mr Callaghan was—the significance of this comment becoming apparent when Sir John Boyd, the general secretary of the AUEW, joined them for coffee.

He had been at another dinner, where Mr Callaghan had been with Mr Moss Evans, Mr David Basnett and Mr Clive Jenkins. Mr. Duffy, having been invited to that dinner as well, had sent Sir John in his place to keep an eye on things, while himself remaining loyal to the first group. At this news there was an explosion of wrath with Mr Callaghan from Mr Chapple and others.

This episode destroyed confidence between Mr Callaghan and most, though not all, of this group. There were no further collective meetings of that nature and the Evans-Basnett-Jenkins troika failed to deliver for Mr Callaghan. It was not the first time that a party leader had failed to discern who his real friends were among the union leaders.

During the recent leadership election Mr Healey's supporters were eager to portray him as a man of the centre, not the right. Now he is making more robust statments, but will they be translated into action? Right-wing union leaders, led by Mr Duffy and Mr Roy Grantham of the Association of Professional, Executive and Computer Staff, are seeking at last to change the balance on the NEC at Brighton. Will they now succeed where they have so often failed?

Mr Roy Hattersley has been positively pugnacious outside the conference hall at Wembley and subsequently; but will he and others of like mind, who have been talking together anxiously in recent weeks, go beyond yesterday's statement of broad intent to organize seriously, even if informally, with specific objectives?

On past showing a degree of scepticism is justified in response to all three questions. Yet the right ought to have one big advantage in fighting back: electoral logic is on their side. The obvious strategy for Labour now to pursue is to undermine the new party that seems bound to emerge by itself moving to the right.

Unless it does so it will be giving the social democrats every possible encouragement and the Conservatives every hope that unless they make a complete mess of the economy they will be returned to office at the next election.

Black journalists in the firing line

Derrick Thema, a black journalist on the Johannesburg Star, describes black reaction to the enforced closure of South Africa's two largest black newspapers.

Far from maintaining order and stability and counteracting efforts at creating a revolutionary climate in South Africa, the Government's closure of *Post* and the *Sunday Post* has reduced the prospect for peaceful change.

The closure has been received with anger and dismay by blacks who, in a country where all newspapers are white-owned, regarded *Post* as their authentic voice.

Post, staffed by a new breed of black journalists who see themselves first as oppressed blacks before being journalists, had invariably supported black consciousness ideas.

As a voice for black consciousness proponents, it provided a healthy platform for the pent-up feelings, the aspirations, the anger and the general thinking of blacks.

The closure of *Post* will widen the communications gap between government and blacks. It will also increase black frustrations.

Coming at a time when the Steyn commission of inquiry is hearing evidence about the role of the mass media in South Africa, the Government has destroyed any illusion about maintaining the freedom of the press. With so many laws *restricting* press freedom already in existence, the opposition English-language press may find itself the next victim of Government action. The message is a terse one: the Government will not hesitate to silence dissidents.

The Government's action against *Post* underlines the belief that only timid blacks will be tolerated.

The closure of *Post* shows the insincerity of the Government's claim that it is working towards a *verligte* (enlightened) dispensation for blacks.

With the voices of reason already thinning, the Government has unwittingly driven even those blacks who still advocate the politics of conciliation into the militant African National Congress.

Black journalists have increasingly found that their journalistic commitments are indivisible from their political convictions. They no longer accept the concept of "objective reporting". To blacks, objectivity is an outmoded myth.

It is for this reason that the black journalists' union, the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA) has rejected even the white-owned "liberal" newspapers because they operate within the law and "it is impossible under South African law to tell the full story of what blacks feel".

Black journalists have drifted away from traditional journalistic standards. The emphasis has been on advocacy journalism, exposing iniquities and "enlightening" black readers about what is right or wrong.

They now think that it is the duty of black newspapers to lead the community to "total liberation". This entails propounding the black consciousness philosophy.

A black journalist's lot is an uneviable one. He tries to reflect the feelings of the black community yet cannot report matters of prejudice or brutality without himself getting emotionally involved.

The recent MWASA strike at *Post* and the *Sunday Post* was more than just a labour dispute. It was an expression of anger at unfair labour practices.

Black journalists are products of *radicalization* caused by the Government's intransigence. The Government has two options—either to silence them completely or hear what they really feel and know. If it will not listen, *the Government* might as well call off the bluff about working towards a *verligte* dispensation for blacks.

The growing battle for the countryside



Countryside conflict: huntsmen hemmed in by demonstrators.

It is hard to judge to what extent the Government foresaw a rough passage for its Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Critics say it knew there would be controversy, and that is why the committee work devolved largely on the House of Lords while the Commons attended to weightier matters. At all events, their lordships have tabled no fewer than 560 amendments, running to 94 pages, which is nine more than the Bill itself.

It falls into two main parts, the first dealing with the protection of birds, animals and plants, the second with the conservation of the countryside. There are long schedules of species which are totally protected or can be killed only at certain times of the year or by certain methods.

For most conservation groups this is the less exceptionable part of the Bill, although the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is concerned about the methods proposed for the issuing of licences to shoot protected species if they can be shown to be damaging crops.

"At present if a farmer shoots a protected bird and is taken to court, he has a defence in law if he can prove it is a pest," Mr John Parslow, the society's Director of Conservation points out. "We think that is unsatisfactory, and so we are in favour of a licensing system. But we also think there is a danger of blanket licences being issued to shoot, say, Brent geese in a particular area, which would lead to uncertainty and anomalies. For instance people might be able to shoot them in West Sussex and not in East Sussex. We say that licences must be much more strictly defined."

The society also claims that the Bill as it stands does not meet EEC directives on the protection of certain species. One fear, although it diplomatically declines to say so openly, is that if Britain is not seen to be taking a strict line, governments of countries like France and Italy will be encouraged to turn a blind eye to the wholesale slaughter that used to take place of almost anything that flew. "Unless we play our part it will be difficult for us to object to the killing of songbirds in Mediterranean countries", was one comment.

In no sense does the society represent an extremist view. Not only is it prohibited under its charter from commenting on the ethics of shooting game birds and wildfowl, but privately officials will concede that the sport brings some benefits to the countryside in that it requires, the retention of copses, spinneys and hedgerows and discourages the draining of marshes.

That argument would be hotly contested by those who oppose all forms of blood sport for what often appear to be political motives. It is those same motives which now appear to be creeping into the debate on the countryside and which are forcing landowners and farmers into an increasingly defensive attitude.

Much that has been written and said lately has encouraged the public to believe that the countryside is being systematically destroyed to meet the needs of modern agriculture; that woods and water meadows, moorland and hedges are disappearing under the plough in order to produce heavily subsidized food surpluses which end up in the EEC's infamous "mountains". For their part, the farmers see themselves as being invaded by armies of conservationists with beards and anoraks, telling them how they should do their job.

"The whole thrust of this Bill is anti-farmer and anti-landowner," Mr James Douglas, Director-General of the Country Landowners Association laments. Some of the amendments which have been tabled, such as those urging the extension of planning controls to cover agriculture, are far worse.

So far the more responsible conservationist groups, such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, have rejected blanket planning controls. But all the societies are united, with the support of the Nature Conservancy and the Countryside Commission, in demanding strict controls on what are known as sites of special scientific interest. (SSIs).

There are 3,800 such sites in Britain, of which about 1,000 are so designated for their topographical features and the remainder because they are considered important wildlife habitats. Some are in remote and inaccessible areas and so not endangered, but more than half are considered to be vulnerable to agriculture or afforestation.

At present the Nature Conservancy Council can object only to schemes which are subject to control under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Elsewhere the farmer can do as he will. The Bill proposes greater protection, but only for those sites categorized as of outstanding interest. The *conservation societies are adamant* that protection must be extended to all SSIs and that *there should be no grading into* "important" and "not so important".

In theory the National Conservancy Council has powers to purchase compulsorily any site on which it is unable to reach agreement with the farmer concerned. But it has used them only rarely and under extreme pressure, as in the case of the Ribble marshes, because it does not see its function as a landowner and because it simply does not have the money. As a result it has been accused of being too ready to compromise with farmers and even for alleged delay in designating new sites.

The simplest way to ensure that SSIs remain undamaged, it is said, is not to give farmers grants to reclaim the land but to pay them the same amounts to manage them as nature preserves. Often management would mean simply doing nothing and leaving the land alone; in other cases farmers might be required, for instance, to graze sheep on stretches of downland.

A system of conservation or management grants would almost certainly be readily accepted by both sides. But the one stumbling block is that nobody believes the Treasury would ever agree.

John Young
Planning Reporter

Putting the family first

Family Forum was strongly criticized by Ronald Butt in his column of January 22. Here the organization's chairman, Peter Bottomley, MP, explains its functions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said in his address to the Family Forum first general meeting last November: "It would be hard to imagine an institution more central to our way of life, even today, than the family. Yet we take our own families for granted. In the same way, most of us do not think too deeply about what is happening to the family in general.

"Your organization will help to prevent that kind of oversight. Progress in this field requires both thought and action. So I am particularly glad that you are aiming at a membership which should promote fruitful interchanges between the entire range of bodies—both national and local—which have a practical interest in the family. I hope, too, that you will offer a lead in clear-sighted thinking about the outlook for the family."

The Family Forum is designed to bring together people concerned with families and family policy. The 70-member organizations cover a wide spectrum of service charities, councils of voluntary service, church groups, pressure groups and others which support the aims of Family Forum which are: (1) To act as a central body for the purpose of consultation in matters of education or public interest concerning families; (2) To bring together organizations and individuals interested in furthering this work; (3) To encourage the formation of local networks of organizations and individuals.

The first working groups covered five overlapping areas. Local family networks were discussed, looking at the need to bring families together with local professional and voluntary services and at how education for and about family life and the family life-cycle could be spread at community level.

The session on voluntary organizations and families was concerned with how services are responding to changing family needs and at picking up the opportunity to make help available earlier to families in trouble, reducing the need for crisis intervention.

The group on "representing the interests of families" saw Family Forum as part of a broad family movement, accepting the need and making the opportunities to involve families *directly* in the policies affecting them.

The group concerned with family policy and policies for families was interested in spreading research findings and professional expert insights and information for wider discussion and increasing family and public awareness of what is already known.

The last group looked at international links. How are family associations organized in other countries, what are the structures of family policy discussions in Europe and how can we learn from the experiences in other countries?

All of this was designed to bolster families as the basic units in society. Members accept that the traditional definition of family—people connected by blood, marriage or adoption—covers nearly all of us nearly all of the time although family policy blurs into consideration of general domestic or household interests. My view is that it is neither Christian nor sensible only to regard families as containing two parents and their children. One of the advantages of the family perspective is that it brings in the family life-cycle rather than a photograph of society.

There are contentious issues in the family policy area. Family Forum recognizes that different organizations and individuals hold conflicting views on certain subjects. If they all share a concern and interest for families, Family Forum can help by bringing them together rather than becoming a battle-ground.

In a discussion last year on the provision of contraception to under 16-year-olds, common ground was established in trying to reduce the number of children who feel that they cannot talk to their parents about their actions. Family Forum can work in many other areas to reduce avoidable handicap, distress and disadvantage.

Most professionals in social services, child guidance and family welfare services recognize that the sooner families in difficulty can get help, the more likely it is that effective assistance can be offered. Bringing these people together with families at local and community level will be one of the major tasks of Family Forum and that together with its educational role are the main reasons why trusts and the Department of Health and Social Services have offered finance to Family Forum.

Family functioning has been shown to be vital by reports such as the Court report on Child Health Services, the Plowden report on Primary Education and by studies on areas as different as juvenile delinquency and the care of the elderly or handicapped.

Mr James Callaghan expressed a growing concern and interest in families during his time in office. Mr Patrick Jenkin, now Secretary of State for Health and Social Services said in an article for the Pre-School Playgroup Association three years ago: "Family life is the bedrock of our society. If the family is to survive and flourish, benign neglect is not enough. We need consciously to protect and foster family life."

Family Forum can become a focus of the deep and widespread concern for healthy family life as it is lived in Britain today with the hope of making life better for future generations as well as ourselves.

There have of course been criticisms that Family Forum is dominated by the old-fashioned and at the same time is carrying all the prejudices of the permissive groups in society. Its real function is to cater for the families in the middle, working for the people *caring for their dependents.*

Sir Geoffrey Howe finished his address to Family Forum last year with these words: "I hope that you will, as an organization, be at least equally vigorous in promoting the exchange of ideas on the practical provision at ground level of help and encouragement to families. A membership of the kind that you are aiming at will have an enormous fund of knowledge and experience about how local family and community support activities can be encouraged and mobilized to help families in trouble. *I hope you will draw on this* experience."

MOSCOW DIARY

Perhaps no one can be harder to track down than a Soviet official who does not want to be interviewed. He can erect all kinds of obstacles before he ever needs to give a flat no: and you can pursue him with letters and phone calls from office to office, town to town for months before you notice that you have returned to the point where you started.

But whereas foreigners tend to give up early in the chase, Soviet journalists are nothing if not persistent and Mr Ustin Malapagin was determined to get a straight answer from one factory director to what seemed to him a simple but important question: what constitutes working time? He wanted to write an article on a subject that has become both topical and controversial as the Russians, in a mood to root out inefficiency before the forthcoming party congress, are cracking down on skiving and absenteeism.

For three days he telephoned the factory to make an appointment. Each time a pleasant female voice answered that Boris Mikhailovich was out—he had just left, he had not yet arrived, he would be in after lunch, he was called to head office, he was opening something, shutting something, was meeting a delegation, heading a delegation. . . . anyway, call again please.

Malapagin decided the best thing to do was to go to the director's office in person and catch him. It turned out that the owner of the pleasant voice was a lady of uncertain age, hair colour and occupation who rejoiced in the name of Flora.

Her main task, it appeared, was to pick up the various different coloured phones on her desk and tell callers that Boris Mikhailovich was out. Soviet offices do not have internal switchboards. Instead the more senior the official, the more phones he has on his desk. They frequently all ring together. For the rest of the day she was engaged in four simultaneous occupations: typing, talking, listening and knitting.

Flora did the work of a whole brigade of secretaries. In one day she told 76 different callers that the director was not in, knitted a maxi-pullover and then a mini-dress, purchased—over the telephone—a kilo of mince, two much sought-after shirts — exchanging one for three ties—collected 20 kilos of waste paper for the city's recycling scheme and got in return two volumes from a series of popular novels.

During the lunch break, leaving the patient journalist by the phones, she hurried off to the museum to have a look at the exhibition of Spanish art treasures. And on the dot of six o'clock she took her mince and two jars of pickled peppers out of the office fridge and bade farewell.

The next day the pattern was repeated, only on this occasion Flora knitted a pair of trousers, and instead of peppers she took home jars of pineapple. On the third day Malapagin made some progress, he twice spotted the directors' fur hat, and three times heard his voice over the intercom, but there was no time to catch an interview.

After a few more days the office staff got used to him: the porter no longer asked to see his pass when he appeared in the mornings, and he was persuaded to buy three office lottery tickets. At the end of the week he had already begun to take part in the daily morning exercises.

These "gymnastics", which the state earnestly believes will keep its citizens fit and fresh, still go on as they used to in those beautiful old pre-war propaganda films. At 11.00 and 1.00 o'clock the radio plays special music, the windows are thrown open, everyone downs tools and swings her body around behind her desk for 10 minutes.

But things were more relaxed in this office. At 11.00 they switched on the radio, opened the windows, and then all went into the corridor to smoke. Here the real business of the day was transacted standing for half-an-hour under the slogan "one minute of work saves an hour", the office staff discussed the digestive system of frogs, who was getting married, retiring or changing jobs. The belief that in 1981, the Year of the Cock (the Russians, like the orientals, have named each year after animals) it was bad luck to eat chicken . . . and so on.

Malapagin decided to put his question about working hours. Did smoking constitute work or not? Opinion was divided. One person opined that if the smoker stood on the steps of the factory, this constituted work, but if he smoked in the street, that was his free time. Another said the smoking interval was overtime and should be paid double. But what about those who went to sleep in the office? Was that office time or personal time? The discussion was just heating up, when Flora announced that the director had arrived.



Now or never, he thought. He nipped across the road to get some chocolates and a bunch of carnations, and in a mood to brook no argument, pressed them on Flora.

"Oh you shouldn't have", she said. "Is it very, very urgent that you see Boris Mikhailovich? In that case, here are the directions how to get there. Could you give him this also?"

Malapagin asked which ministry the director was in now. Flora looked astonished. "Ministry? No, no, he's in the baths." She then explained that he wasn't in any ordinary bath, but one decorated with Brazilian marble. Like Pele's. There were angled showerheads, a bidet large enough for three and bath essence. "Who goes to the baths nowadays to wash himself?" she asked. "People go there for cultural enrichment and conversation."

No self-respecting factory was without its own baths, she went on. They had lost all sanitary and hygienic significance and were now an interdepartmental centre for cooperation in various economic sectors. No enterprise, however small, could function without its own baths, or as Boris Mikhailovich more fashionably called them saunas.

She professed astonishment at the journalist's lack of understanding of Soviet business etiquette. Most transactions were nowadays conducted in the sauna, which was replacing the more traditional Russian wet-steam baths, because samples and equipment did not rust in the sauna's dry heat.

Malapagin's interview with the director was conducted on the highest level: the top bench of the sauna. "Working time?" he mused. "Well, supposing you were a director and an inspector arrived from the ministry, or the budget controller. You understand his function? So where should you take him to create a good impression, the right psychological atmosphere?

In your office? I personally have a reflex action to shout at anyone I see in my office. In a restaurant? It could be misunderstood by those sitting near. You need a neutral place like a sauna where there's no pomposity, no hints of bribery."

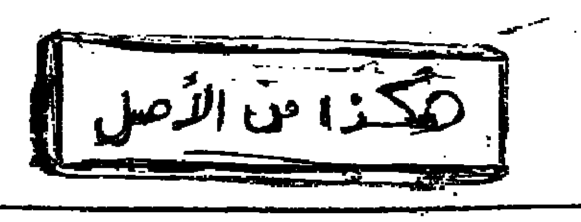
In any case, the director added, in the heat, the fresh aromatic air, the sparkling tiles, with the music of "Abba" playing gently in the background, any high official began to "melt". It was also a scientific fact that two naked people could understand each other better than two clothed people.

And afterwards, he explained, you arrange a fine feast of fish and delicacies in the cooling-off room, tell a few jokes, and time stands still—even working time. Whatever problem the inspector brought down to the factory soon then disappears.

Malapagin confessed that he was nonplussed, and found it harder and harder to define working time. He wondered whether any factory could get along at all without a man such as Boris Mikhailovich. He took a cold shower, and decided to ask the kindergarten children how they would define working time.

His delicious satire, true in more details than any factory director would care to admit, not only gave his paper's readers a good laugh, but does much to throw light on the Soviet equivalent of the expense-account lunch. It doesn't sound too bad an idea, perhaps there is room for other journalistic interviews of this kind.

Michael Binyon



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DATSUN WITHIN THE WALLS

Reports that Nissan Datsun, the Japanese car manufacturer, is seriously looking at the possibility of setting up a substantial manufacturing plant in this country were confirmed yesterday. It is a development that may provoke an instinctive hostile reaction. After all, the Japanese domestic economy is notoriously resistant to major wholly-owned direct investment into Japan. There is very little such foreign direct investment and both government and the business community in effect insist that the bulk of it is in the form of joint ventures with Japanese interests.

There will also be those, already upset by the aggressive Japanese car export methods, who will see a Japanese manufacturing plant in this country as a Trojan horse placed inside the formal and informal barriers to Japanese car exporting that are in place. This entry into the domestic British market would become even more important if, as seems more than probable, there is a steady growth in protectionism for national car industries.

Such feelings are likely to be strong with our Common Market partners, particularly the French and the Italians. While ostensibly subscribing to the same general rules regarding free world trade in motor cars, as a matter of practice both the French and the Italians have been largely successful in keeping any significant numbers of Japanese cars out of their markets. If Nissan Datsun establishes a major plant in the United Kingdom, it will have a spring board within the EEC from which it could launch a more effective attack in due course on Continental European markets. If the Common Market as a whole adopted further protection against non-EEC car imports, Nissan Datsun would already be within the defences.

Such sentiments, even if understandable, are misplaced. There is every indication that a Nissan Datsun plant would be established with the most modern equipment and with high productivity. It must be in the best interests of this country to encourage modern and efficient industrial investment of this kind. There is no reason why a Nissan Datsun investment here should be seen in any way as being different to, say, the investments by Ford and General Motors. These American owned subsidiaries are accepted happily enough as being part of British industry. Indeed, compared to Ford whose British operations are very much now part of an integrated worldwide manufacturing system, the Japanese manufacturer would be making a far larger percentage of its car in this country.

The argument being voiced in some quarters that it is wrong for the Government to allow a Datsun investment while the tax payer is being required heavily to subsidize British Leyland is equally misplaced. So far as we know Nissan Datsun has not asked for any special government financial assistance, over and above that available to any new investment in a development area. The purpose of these standard elements of government help is to encourage useful industrial activity in areas of high unemployment, to the general benefit of the British economy as a whole. None of the other car manufacturers operating in this country are in a position to make the kind of investment that the Japanese are proposing. It can only, therefore, add to the average quality of British industrial capacity.

It must be to the advantage of the British balance of trade and to the economy in general that effectively the full advantage of the value added in the manufacture and assembly of these Japanese cars should fall in the United Kingdom. The only proper concern of the British Government in the transaction is to obtain undertakings that the maximum possible proportion of the new cars should be of British manufacture as soon as possible and to monitor progress and performance in this respect. This, equally, should be part of any general industrial policy towards foreign owned car manufacturers in this country.

FRESH APPROACHES OVER AFGHANISTAN

It is a pity that President Giscard d'Estaing should have launched his proposal on Afghanistan at the time he did and in the way he did. The timing was wrong, because the Islamic nations were formulating their own initiative at the Taif Summit, in the presence of the United Nations Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim. The manner was wrong, in that the French President seems to have consulted neither the Islamic nations nor his European allies. Fellow Europeans, it seems, were merely "informed", which is less than adequate considering that the EEC has for some time been trying to evolve a common approach to a number of foreign policy issues, not least Afghanistan.

The French proposal probably has more to do with French politics than anything else. President Giscard produced his idea of a conference on Afghanistan during a television interview which was clearly related to the forthcoming presidential election in France. Having been widely criticized in France for his failure to restrain the adventurism of the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, in what was formerly French West Africa, President Giscard presumably felt he had to show that France could play an active and positive role in some other part of the world.

Whatever lay behind it the Giscard proposal is not without merit, and should not be dismissed out of hand. It envisages a conference on "foreign intervention in Afghanistan", with the participation of the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, plus the regional powers of South West Asia, and representatives of "the Islamic community". The French proposal would exclude the regime in Kabul headed by Mr Babrak Karmal, which is rightly regarded not only by the Afghan rebels but also by the major Western powers as a puppet of Moscow.

The Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet occupying troops want to drive the Russians out by military means, and have little time for conferences and initiatives of any kind, whether they include Mr Karmal or not. The Islamic leaders meeting in Taif this week came up against this obstacle in trying to formulate their own proposal for an end to the Afghan crisis. Pakistani officials say that they have received hints of "flexibility" not only from Moscow but also from Kabul. When the Pakistan President, General Zia ul-Haq, suggested at Taif that a United Nations official should be sent to Kabul to open negotiations, the four Afghan rebel factions represented at the summit objected vehemently.

There are signs, however, that the Islamic nations are impatient with the rebels' apparent inability to form a united front. There is also a feeling of irritation with the rebels' insistence that not only should Kabul be shunned, but nobody should talk to the Russians either.

Since the object of the exercise is to persuade the Russians to withdraw from Afghanistan, any conference which excludes them is not likely to have much impact. It is for this reason that the Islamic nations, while maintaining their support for the rebels' struggle, have resolved to approach Moscow, if not Kabul. To this end, the Taif Summit toned down previous Islamic condemnations of the Soviet occupation, referring to "intervention" rather than "invasion", and calling for the withdrawal of "foreign forces". As the Pakistani Foreign Minister put it: "When you move into negotiations with a party, it is inappropriate to make condemnations."

The Islamic formula—like the French one—offers the Russians an opening. Indeed, despite the cack-handed way in which it was put forward, the French proposal is not inconsistent with the Taif Summit declaration. With the active backing of the United Nations, some movement toward ending the Afghanistan crisis could well be begun. If—as the Pakistanis have been urging—a United Nations emissary were to broach the subject in Moscow, he could do so on behalf of both the Islamic world and the West. It would still be necessary to impress upon the Russians that no settlement is possible unless Moscow undertakes to withdraw its combat forces from Afghanistan.

The question is whether the Russians would wish to take advantage of such an opening. There is no sign of it at present. Ironically enough, in the long run it is the Afghan rebels rather that the West or the Islamic world who may force the Soviet Union to the negotiating table. Given the preponderance of Soviet power, the rebels are not likely to achieve the military victory they are seeking in Afghanistan. But they could, if united, make life sufficiently uncomfortable for the occupiers for a negotiated solution to become more attractive to Moscow than continued military stalemate.

Breath test controls

From Dr B. M. Wright

Sir, Having been actively concerned with the theory and practice of breath alcohol testing for more than 20 years, and as the co-inventor of the Alcolmeter, a British-designed and -made machine now coming into use in Britain as a screening device ("breathalyser") instead of the German Alcotest tubes, I welcome the letter from Mr T. E. Rymer (January 27). I entirely agree with him that the concentration of alcohol in the breath is not a sufficiently reliable indicator to be used "as the primary means of determining a person's alcohol concentration" without any possibility of appeal (unless the reading is below the equivalent of 100mg/100ml blood).

The trouble is that the main source of error is not in the analysis of breath, which nowadays rivals that of blood in its accuracy and precision, but in the uncertainty of the relationship between the breath and blood concentrations. The reasons for this uncertainty are complex, but its importance is shown by the well known fact that a valid breath alcohol test cannot be taken within 15 minutes of drinking because the residual alcohol in the mouth and throat can seriously raise the breath concentration.

The Home Office have spent many thousands of pounds and man-hours of work trying to find the perfect machine, but in spite of automatic print-out and repeated calibration (which are, in practice, an additional source of breakdown) they have not been able to improve the situation, because they have been barking up the wrong tree.

When I gave evidence to the Blennerhassett committee I had the greatest difficulty in restraining them from going all-out for breath analysis. However, in the end they reported in favour of the Northern Ireland practice, which has been in operation now for 12 years, in which the accused is invited to plead guilty to the result of the breath test, but is free to ask for a blood test whatever the breath level. The Home Office and the Ministry of Transport are obsessed by the fear that this practice would lead to everyone asking for a blood test, but the evidence from Northern Ireland is that in 12 years no more than 10 per cent have ever asked for a blood test and of recent years no more than 3 per cent.

The main objection to complete dependence on the breath test is, of course, its unreliability, but another important factor is its effect on instrument design. As we have seen, no amount of sophistication of design will improve the situation, but manufacturers are only too pleased to provide it as it increases the cost om the instruments and so is good for business.

Once it is accepted that breath is not the final answer, much simpler and cheaper instruments can be used, like the evidential Alcolmeter that has been operating in Northern Ireland for the last three years. A further advantage of making the blood option free will be to simplify the required legislation; it is only necessary to provide that the accused may plead guilty to the result of the breath test, which at present he cannot.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. WRIGHT,
93 Uxbridge Road,
Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire.

More than one mind

From Professor W. H. C. Frend

Sir, In the course of her long letter (January 23) Mrs Thwaites seems to suggest that "objective theological inquiry" should ultimately lead towards the goal of seeing "all Christians doctrinally of one mind". She clearly prefers this idea of Christian unity to that of "an ever more perfect relationship between a group of close friends", who nevertheless are "of more than one mind".

Rightly or wrongly, however, doctrinal unity has never been realised at any time in the Church's history. From the moment, within a decade of the Crucifixion, when Christians at Antioch preferred to call themselves "Christians" rather than "Nazarenes" as their fellows in Jerusalem came to be known, thus emphasising the *Hellenistic*-Jewish character of their community, the *Ecclesia* (Church) of the New Israel has been divided.

A generation before Constantine each of the major Christian communities, led by Rome, Alexandria and Antioch, was developing its own interpretation of doctrine and discipline. Attempts, such as at the Council of Chalcedon, to heal the rifts and define Christian truth by means of doctrinal formulae failed. They were rejected instinctively by the great majority of Christians, who felt that their religious beliefs could not be expressed by neat formulations.

The divisions arising from Chalcedon, of the Monophysite, Orthodox and Latin-Catholic traditions, remain with us today. And, in our time, similar approaches towards settling Anglican-Methodist and Roman Catholic-Anglican differences have had no success.

One wonders, then, whether institutional and organic unity corresponds to the Lord's will, reflected in the life of his people throughout nearly 2,000 years of history. Identities, personal and collective, are precious possessions for whose preservation suffering and even martyrdom are acceptable.

Is it not better to travel hopefully as friends accepting the reality of our differences than to look for "a miracle" that would remove them? In human terms would not such an event merely place one individual or group in a position to dominate the personal lives of his fellow-Christians, and so begin the process of protest and schism over again?

Yours faithfully,
W. H. C. FREND,
Department of Ecclesiastical History,
The University,
Glasgow.
January 26.

Voice from the past

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, Could you stand yet one more letter about "Tibby" Brittain? At Mons, about the time *They Were Not Divided* was released, RSM Brittain urged us cadets he was drilling to look straight ahead, not at him.

"If you want to see me", he cried, "go to the pictures". (Pause.) "It'll cost you half a crown" (Longer pause.) "*Well worth it*", he boomed.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES PILDITCH,
62 Cadogan Square, SW1.
January 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thaw in trade with Russia

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, I have been waiting in vain for some more self-righteous person than myslef to comment on the visit of a well-sponsored British trade mission to Moscow (reports, January 21 and 23).

Less than a year ago, in common with other members of the western alliance, we were showing our distaste for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by collective protest and at least token withdrawals from commercial and cultural intercourse—in the case of the United States, rather more than token.

Now we are all creeping back again, looking for business, though the Russians are still in Afghanistan and their worldwide political and military posture has by no means been visibly modified. On the contrary, so far from begging us to let them off the hook or expressing any contrition, the Kremlin is apologizing to its own people for letting us back in, on the grounds that they need Western technology.

Thus, having denied the Afghan people any material support, we are now withdrawing all moral support.

As an ordinary citizen, I am puzzled; both policies cannot have been right. If I were an Olympic athlete, or a non-Olympic equestrian, I should be positively cross.

Can we please be told what is going on and why?

Yours etc,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.
January 25.

Lambeth's spending

From Dr A. C. Day

Sir, As a Lambeth ratepayer I read with interest the letter from Mr Ted Knight (January 26).

The real needs of Lambeth are indeed many, as Mr Knight indicates. What would be the characteristics of a council which had unfeigned concern for the needy? It would surely make a clear distinction between the vital and the inessential in order to conserve all available funds for use in relieving the greatest need. It would maximize efficiency and reduce waste. It would avoid rates so excessive as to cause businesses to move out of the borough and so increase unemployment. It would seek to share any increased burden between rentpayers and ratepayers so as to raise the maximum revenue with the minimum of partiality or bias.

What would characterize a council motivated chiefly by a desire to make political capital? By wanton expenditure it would achieve its desired confrontation with the Government. The burden of excessive taxation would be placed almost wholly on the ratepayers' backs, thereby securing the votes of council house tenants. The blame would be laid at the door of the central Government. When economies are called for, the ratepayers would be assured that cuts would affect old peoples' homes and the like. On the other hand, economies which could be made would be dismissed as too trivial to implement.

Which kind of a council do you think we have in Lambeth? Is it really acting in the best interests of the borough?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. DAY,
23 Eastmearn Road, SE21.
January 26.

Economic planning effects

From Professor G. C. Allen, FBA

Sir, In an effort to refute Professor Hayek's proposition about the "successful" free market economies and the "unsuccessful" socialist economies, Lord Kaldor (January 27) put forward the example of Austria, a socialist economy that has enjoyed fast growth, monetary stability and full employment. He described, with justified approval, the processes of consultation and cooperation among the various interests, private and public, in policy-making in that country.

The whole discussion raises doubts whether it is useful to debate the problem of economic growth and stability in terms of private enterprise versus state control. Is it not the *kind* of state intervention in the economy rather than the extent of it that is significant?

In this connexion, the example of Japan is relevant. Here is a market economy where the size of the public sector is very small, but where the Government has played a most important part in the formulation and execution of economic policy. I suggest that it is by distinguishing between constructive and damaging forms of intervention (judged from the standpoint of economic growth) that we may arrive at useful conclusions on this matter.

Those distinctions are not difficult to draw. What is depressing for Britain is that, given the distribution of political power in this country and the condition of our institutions, it is more than likely that government intervention, in the future as in the past, will be of the kind that is deleterious to economic progress.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. ALLEN,
15 Ritchie Court,
380 Banbury Road,
Oxford.
January 27.

Fresh look at milk

From Mr K. J. Tyler

Sir, We are glad that Mr Allen (January 22) enjoyed his fresh farm milk and suffered no ill effects. He is more fortunate than the people who were involved in several large outbreaks of enteritis reported during recent years. In those outbreaks unpasteurised milk from dairy farms was the medium by which the illness was transmitted.

Yours faithfully,
K. J. TYLER, Secretary,
The Environmental Health Officers Association,
19 Grosvenor Place, SW1.
January 23.

Power-base for a new centre party

From Mr Bruno de Hamel

Sir, I urge Mrs Williams and others to consider very carefully whether they do not need the Labour Party at least as much as it needs them at the moment.

Without them the growing resistance to anti-parliamentary forces within the party will be weakened. Without the party, who will they be; what will they become?

The prospects for the formation and survival of a fourth political party in this country are not rosy. The Liberals really do not want allies, except on their own terms. A shared electoral platform might attract some of the Poujadiste-type sentiments that are presently in vogue, but the vogue will not last. The Council for Social Democracy, whatever this means, is not the sort of label the English take to. After the next election, this label is all that its supporters could be left with.

Meanwhile opposition within the trade unions and the Labour Party to the disastrous Wembley decision will be deprived of influential and anti-parliamentary forces will consolidate their position. The Labour Party will lose support, perhaps on a large scale.

Will the lost support be given instead to the Social Democracy Council? I doubt it very much indeed. Only the Conservative Party is likely to benefit.

Speaking as a Conservative trade unionist, I do not believe such developments would be in the lasting interests of the country. The cause of parliamentary democracy needs the help of Mrs Williams and her friends where it will be most effective—within the Labour Party.

I hope they will think again.

Yours faithfully,
BRUNO de HAMEL,
35 Lennox Gardens, SW1.

From Lord and Lady Kennet

Sir, You were too hasty in saying (leading article, January 26) that a "number of social democrats have to all intents and purposes cut their links with the Labour Party". What Labour Party?

At Wembley, the militant/block-vote left used the party's distorting mirror of a constitution to inflate themselves and to shrink almost out of existence its links with parliamentary democracy, with the constitution of the country, and with its own history and traditions. It is they who have been cutting not only "links" but roots.

The rest of us, who have not so done, must now look to the renewal and the undistorted continuation of the Labour Party. The Council for Social Democracy is in no way the start of a new, rootless, centre party: it is a new tree, long-wanted, now emerging from sound roots within the much battered Parliamentary Labour Party.

For those who are dissatisfied with both Mr Wedgwood Benn's and the Conservative Party's brands of muddled extremism there is once again in British politics a democratic left to work and vote for.

Yours, etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
WAYLAND KENNET,
100 Bayswater Road, W2.
January 28.

From Stephen Ross, MP for Isle of Wight (Liberal)

Sir, I joined the Liberal Party because I felt it had the best opportunity of breaking down the barriers which still divide our nation and which continue to prevent us from working together for our common good. It has taken longer than I anticipated, but looking back over the past 20 years we have in fact made great progress, particularly in the field of local government.

Time, however, is not on our side and the need to make a real impression is now of paramount importance for our nation. I believe we have two years at most to achieve that goal or this country will, probably without fully realizing what it is about, take a step from which there will be no turning back, or at least not without a great deal of misery and perhaps even strife.

It is surely obvious from our ratings in the polls, our lack of finance, and the necessary back-up facilities that we cannot do it on our own. We need friends and helpful acquaintances to assist us. That is why we must do all we can to reach working agreements with those of social democratic persuasions who do not feel able straight away to take the Liberal Whip for various reasons which I find perfectly understandable. With the opportunity of gaining allies in places like Newcastle and Teesside, hardly hotbeds of Liberalism in recent years, local constituency officers ought to be agog with excitement.

We have an unfortunate history of wasted opportunities. It would be folly on our part and quite likely catastrophic for our country if we do not seize the opportunities that are now within our grasp. I beg my fellow members to back their leader at this time and not to continue to place obstacles in his path.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROSS,
House of Commons.
January 27.

Hostages agreement

From Mr Simon Harding

Sir, Your editorial on American renunciation of the agreement with Iran (January 23) makes only one valid point against renunciation and misses all the important points in favour.

The point against is that, in your view, international law does not permit an agreement to be breached even if it is made under duress. Under international law a treaty can be renounced at any time if one party feels that relevant circumstances have changed since the agreement was made, or if one party feels that the other has itself broken a part of the agreement.

In the present case the fact that the hostages have been treated far worse than the American Government was led to expect excuses the United States on at least one, and possibly both, of these counts. There is no question of there being a moral imperative to "keep one's word", because domestic law recognizes no such obligation in cases of duress, and international law recognizes no morality at all.

Although it may be expedient to honour agreements in general, there is no reason to regard it as such in the present case, where the Americans are dealing with a country that has acted in complete defiance of the most fundamental norms of international behaviour and therefore places itself beyond the pale of the established conventions, hence beyond the sympathy of any state whose views ought to be respected.

The points in favour are far more important and less debatable. The first is that renunciation, if carried out in such a way as to withhold substantial assets belonging to, or claimed by Iran, would be one way to inflict a just punishment on Iran for having kept the hostages. This would make it apparent that Iran had been defeated and had suffered as a consequence of flouting international law. This would serve the important policy objective of discouraging any possible future seizure of diplomats by criminal regimes.

The second is that the infliction of a significant penalty on Iran as a result of the hostage affair will strengthen the hand of the more moderate elements in that country, who have criticized the hostage-taking from the beginning and who are now ridiculing the propaganda claims of the fanatics responsible. If it is made apparent to the Iranian people that the hostage policy of their present regime has been the disaster that the moderates claim, then the lunatics will be discredited and the likelihood of their being replaced by a government capable of reaching an accommodation with the West will be greatly enhanced.

The third point is that renunciation of this shameful treaty, made with criminals and despots, can only enhance America's rather tarnished reputation as leader of the free world and champion of the principles of freedom and decent behaviour. To keep such a sordid agreement, on the other hand, is to lend legitimacy to the process that brought it about and to implicate the American Government itself in a vile conspiracy of blackmail and terror.

Yours,
S. HARDING,
Department of International Politics,
University College of Wales,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed.
January 23.

Family matters

From Mrs Rachel Nugee

Sir, Ronald Butt in his article, "Family affair", in today's issue (January 22) makes several statements of fact and inference concerning the Mothers' Union and the Chairman of our Social Concern Committee (not, as he writes, Social Problems Committee) Mrs Anne Hopkinson. May I have the courtesy of your columns to set the record straight?

At no time has the Mothers' Union ever agreed to the indiscriminate prescription of contraceptive pills to girls below the age of consent, either with or without their parents' knowledge. After a protracted and detailed correspondence with various ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security, dating back to 1974, we were persuaded that options open to the ministry were either to deny all girls under the age of consent any form of counselling or contraception, however much they might need it, with the consequent, obvious risk of pregnancy; or to permit it in those comparatively few cases where there appeared to be no other way to protect the girl.

Very reluctantly, and on the assurance that counselling would always be available, we concluded that, on balance, the latter course was to be preferred. We have, however, never ceased to urge that the proper course of behaviour for all is chastity before marriage and fidelity within it. To this end we continue to urge for more responsible education in personal relationships and marriage.

The letter from Mrs Hopkinson to Dr Vaughan, a private letter never intended for publication, referred to by Mr Butt, must be seen in this context if its contents are not to be distorted.

Finally, may I ask Mr Butt through you, Sir, to accord Mrs Hopkinson the courtesy of addressing her by the title she always uses and prefers, namely Mrs.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL NUGEE,
Central President,
The Mothers' Union,
The Mary Sumner House,
24 Tufton Street, SW1.
January 22.

In for a penny, in for a pound

From Sir Anthony Lewis

Sir, If we are to have new coins (report, January 29) let us have some of the old names back, instead of the present inelegant and characterless "p". Could not the new 20p piece be called a florin, and would it be too optimistic to suppose that the name "sovereign"—carrying no hint of depreciation in this country within living memory—might help to sustain the value of the £1 coin?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LEWIS,
47 York Terrace East, NW1.
January 28.

From Mr P. H. Kemp

Sir, Instead of abolishing the £1 note altogether, would it not be better to produce a smaller version gummed on one side ready for use on first-class letters in the not too far distant future?

Yours faithfully,
P. H. KEMP,
Round Hill Lodge,
Hockering Road,
Woking,
Surrey.
January 28.

From Mr Keith Wright

Sir, The decision to issue a 20-pence piece raises an old question. What are we to call it?

Two of our current coins had names—*shilling* and florin—but these were dropped from the new designs with the excuse that their use would obstruct the acceptance of decimalization. The result is that we are now the only nation without familiar names for its currency.

Now that decimalization is a fait accompli, is it not time to reintroduce names to the coinage—there's room enough on the bare designs. We might not be too late to halt the devaluation of the language and remove the indignity of everyone from schoolchild to BBC newsreader who refers to one, five, 10, and soon 20p pieces.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH WRIGHT,
Bargate,
Biddenden,
Kent.
January 28.

SOE in the Balkans

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. R. Prentice

Sir, As another "survivor" referred to in Sir Peter Wilkinson's letter (January 9), may I strongly endorse his plea and the letters of Richard Clogg (December 24) and of M. R. D. Foot (January 3) for publication of an official history of SOE in the Balkans, and especially of SOE in Greece?

Having parachuted into occupied Macedonia in August, 1943, as a British liaison officer with ELAS partisans, I was with them continuously until December, 1944, a month after the German withdrawal. For most of 1944 I was in command of the Allied Military Mission in West Macedonia, one of the six command areas under mission headquarters.

It is high time that the myth behind your diarist's comments (December 16), that the record of SOE in the Balkans "is so unsavoury that it cannot be written until surviving participants are well and truly dead", should be well and truly buried.

It is not only a question of being fair to the memory of those who died in Greece and to the reputation of those who took part; it is of paramount importance to Anglo-Greek relations that Britain's contribution to the Greek partisan war against the Axis in 1942-44 should be thoroughly researched in the light of all the information available. After nearly 40 years there is no valid reason for any evidence to be withheld.

We should not allow our own war effort in this field to be denigrated. It will become clear when the SOE records are published:

Firstly, that the political problems of the Greek Resistance were handled by the mission leaders in the field (principally Brigadier Myers, Colonel Woodhouse and Colonel Hammond) with a skill, fairness and impartiality which was a striking example to their area commanders, and which was also respected by the Greek partisan leaders themselves.

Secondly, that despite all the disappointments and setbacks Britain's efforts were successful in her main object of helping the Greeks to pursue the war against the Axis Powers during the occupation, and thus forcing the Axis to retain many divisions in Greece which would otherwise have been employed elsewhere.

It is to refute for good the charge of "unsavouriness" and to establish the facts based on records of the time that members of SOE request publication. If SOE's Far East records can now be revealed then why not also those of Greece, one of our closest allies with whom the British people have had ties of strong friendship and so much in common over many generations—and not least during the years 1942-44?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
RONALD R. PRENTICE,
Standish,
Merstham,
Surrey.
January 15.

EEC surpluses

From Mrs A. M. Stewart-Wallace

Sir, It has been reported that France is converting vegetable waste into alcohol to supplement petrol. Would it not now seem sensible for the EEC to use its wine lakes and various food mountains in the same way and thus create a vast energy-producing compost heap, rather than subsidize low priced food to go behind the iron curtain?

Yours etc,
MARY STEWART-WALLACE,
The Moot House,
Ditchling, Sussex.

Home truths

From Mr John Morley

Sir, If the National Heritage Fund does not exist to ensure that the Poussin remains at Chatsworth, what does it exist for? At *Chatsworth*: as a museum curator, I aver that I deplore the continual flight of objects from great houses to museums, and Chatsworth has had its losses already.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORLEY, Director,
Art Gallery and Museums and
The Royal Pavilion,
Brighton.
January 21.

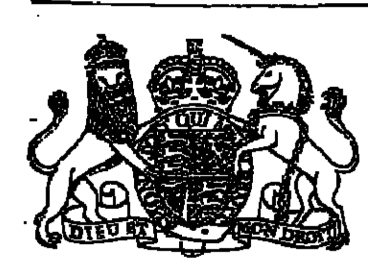
The cost of dying

From Mrs V. St J. Killery

Sir, An excellent suggestion has been made by Mrs Goodwin in her letter today (January 28) that older people should buy their coffins now, a practice incidentally followed by many Chinese for centuries.

The chief difficulty, however, would be one of storage in these days of many flat-dwellers. Would my visitors be elated or depressed, I wonder, by the sight of a coffin propped up in a small entrance hall?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET I. KILLERY,
6 Hamilton House,
Vicarage Gate, W8.
January 28.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 29: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips arrived at Royal Air Force Turnhouse this morning in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh, Councillor Tom Morgan, the Right Hon the Lord Provost.

Her Royal Highness then drove to HM Naval Base, Rosyth, was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Fife (Colonel Sir John Gilmour, Bt) and the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland (Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Baird), and attended the rededication of HMS Jersey (Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Commander T. L. Bailey, RN).

Afterwards, The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips was present at luncheon in the Wardroom and this afternoon visited HMS Cochrane (Commanding Officer, Commander M. J. Roberts, RN).

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke and Major Nicholas Lawson were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at the Premiere of the film, *The Jazz Singer*, which was held at the ABC Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, in aid of the Docklands Settlements, of which Her Royal Highness is President, and the Variety Club of Great Britain.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

Lord and Lady Harvington wish to thank their many friends and countless well-wishers who have written, or prayed, for the safe return of their son, Father the Hon Piers Grant-Ferris, OSB, who was lost for nine days after reaching the summit (23,000 feet) of Mount Aconcagua, Argentina.

Birthdays today

Sir Herbert Ashworth, 71; Lord Bernstein, 82; Sir Frederick Catherwood, 56; Sir Leslie Farrer, 81; Miss Christina Foyle, 70; Lord Lowry, 62; Sir Foley Newns, 72; Professor A. G. Ogston, 70; Mr Louis Osman, 67; Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, 79; Miss Vanessa Redgrave, 44.

Bishop of Dunkeld

Pope John Paul II has named the Rev Vincent Logan as Bishop of Dunkeld, Scotland, in succession to the Right Rev William Hart, who has retired.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. N. J. Jewers and Miss F. M. O. Shaw-Stewart
The engagement is announced between Guy Nicholas John, son of Major J. S. Jewers, RM (rtd), and Mrs Jewers, of Swalcliffe, Oxfordshire, and Fiona Mary Onyx, daughter of the late Sir Euan Shaw-Stewart, Bt, and of Mrs Mary Louise Lysaght, of Hevingham, Norfolk.

Dr A. M. Grant and Miss F. M. Gifford
The engagement is announced between Adrian Maxwell, younger son of Dr and Mrs Gregor Grant, of Yockleton, near Shrewsbury, and Frances Margaret, daughter of Professor and Mrs Douglas Gifford, of St Andrews, Fife.

Mr R. E. J. Henty and Miss Y. Mekkaoui
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr Jonathan Henty, of Northchapel, and the late Mrs Henty, and Yasmina, daughter of Mr A. Mekkaoui, of Beirut and London, and the late Mrs Mekkaoui.

Mr J. P. Hughes and Miss C. C. Parry
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hughes, of Furneaux Pelham, Hertfordshire, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Parry, also of Furneaux Pelham.

Today's engagements

Talks and Lectures: Working with Pavlova, Rita Glynde and Molly Lake, Museum of London, London Wall, 1.10; History of the London Charterhouse, Museum of London, 6.45; Greek and Roman board games, British Museum, 11.30. Cranach's Cupid complaining to Venus, National Gallery, 1.

Walks: Pub walk, meet Temple station, 7.30; Historic London Pub walk, meet St Paul's station, 7.30.

Exhibition: National Custom Car Show, Grand Hall, Olympia, noon-9.

Lunchtime music: Organ recital, St Paul's Cathedral, 12.30; Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, 1.10; Snetzler Duo, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, 1.30.

Bedford College

The foundation-stone for the Bedford College (London University) 1980s development was unveiled yesterday by the Visitor, Professor Lord Zuckerman. Among those present were:

The Vice-Chancellor of London University, Lord Annan, the Chairman of the University Grants Committee, Dr E. Parkes, the Chairman of Council of Bedford College, Sir Cyril Clarke, the Chairman of the appeal committee, Dame Josephine Barnes, and the vice-Chairman, Sir Patrick Reilly, the Principal of Bedford College, Dr J. N. Black; Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, Mrs Mary Baker, Sir Mark Baring, Mrs E. M. Chilver, Lord Kings Norton, Dorothy Lady Moran, Dame Margaret Miles, Professor Naomi McIntosh, Dame Mary Smieton, Professor K. M. Tillotson, Lady Walton and Dame Marjorie Williamson.

Luncheons

HM Government
Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given in honour of the French Ambassador and Mme Sauvagnargues at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday. The Lord President and Lady Soames were among the guests.

National Maritime Museum
The Chairman of the Trustees, the Hon Anthony Cayzer, and the Director of the National Maritime Museum, Dr Basil Greenhill, entertained the following guests at luncheon at Greenwich yesterday:

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, Sir Patrick Nairne, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security, and Sir Arthur Drew, chairman, Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries. Mr E. V. Wright, a trustee, and Mr Philip Annis, the Museum's deputy director, were also present.

To Mrs N. K. S. Stucken
Mrs N. K. S. Stucken was guest at a luncheon at Stationers' Hall on Thursday given by a large and representative gathering from the commercial horticultural industry to celebrate her 25 years as Chairman of Grower Publications Limited. She was presented with an illuminated address signed by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Hon Richard Butler, President of the NFU. An annual award for service to the horticultural industry was also inaugurated in her name.

Dinners

Pilgrims
The Pilgrims held a dinner at the Savoy Hotel last night in honour of the Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher. Lord Astor of Hever was in the chair. Among those present were:

The Lord Chancellor, the American Ambassador and Mrs Brewster, the American Ambassador to Nato and Mrs Bennett; Baroness Airey of Abingdon, Lady Astor of Hever, Mr and Mrs P. J. Butler, Lord Caccia, Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Lord and Lady Chalfont, Mr and Mrs William E. Channing, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Chant-Sempill and Lady Sempill, Mr and Mrs Brian Connell, Mr and Mrs John Corbett, Mr and Mrs Hugh Cubitt, Sir Patrick and Lady Dean, Viscount Eccles, Sir Archibald Forbes, Lord and Lady Gore-Booth, Mr and Mrs Simon Kimmins, Vice-Admiral Sir Louis and Lady Le Bailly, Mr R. Leigh-Pemberton, Lord and Lady McFadzean, Sir Frank and Lady Roberts, the Bishop of Rochester and Mrs Say, Lord Shawcross, QC, Lord and Lady Sherfield, Mr and Mrs Robert L. Sigmon, Sir David and Lady Steel, Sir Huw Wheldon, Sir David Willis, Sir Hugh and Lady Wontner and Mr A. M. Vinton, Jr.

Speaker
The Speaker gave a dinner in Speaker's House yesterday in honour of Sir David Barran, who was accompanied by Lady Barran. Other guests were:

The Greek Ambassador and Mme Lagacos, Mr D. Papaspyrou (President of the Greek Parliament), Mr A. Taliadouros (Minister of Education, Greek Parliament) and Mrs Taliadouros, Lord Maybray-King, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, Lord and Lady O'Brien of Lothbury, Sir Cennydd and Lady Traherne, Sir Julian and Lady Hodge, Sir William and Lady Crawshay, Mr and Mrs John Brooks, Mr and Mrs John Cox, Mr and Mrs Emrys Evans, Mrs Ivy Forster, Mrs Gnulandria, Mr David Griffiths, Mr Charles Irving, MP, Mr and Mrs D. W. C. Kitching, Mr Fergus Montgomery, MP, and Mrs Montgomery, Mr Talis Nemitsas, Miss V. Nemitsas, Mr Christopher Pryce and Mr and Mrs George Pullen.

Apostolic Delegate
The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Mrs Atkins were present at a dinner given in their honour by the Apostolic Delegate at the Apostolic Delegation last night. The other guests were:

The Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland and Mrs Kennedy, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, and Lady Rawlinson, Lord and Lady Napier and Ettrick, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Lady McNee, Mr and Mrs D. G. Trelford, Mr Dennis C. R. Pehrson, Mgr Mario Oliveri and Father Kieran Conry.

Muscovite Society
The Muscovite Society held a dinner at the Café Royal last night in honour of the Soviet Ambassador. Mr Gordon S. Planner, president of the society presided. Among those present were:

Mr Y. N. Balov, Mr R. J. Fall, Mr Devin Dick, Sir Peter Gadsden, Mr Robert Maxwell, Dr Norman Wooding, Mr E. L. Constantinov, Mr G. Draper, Mr J. B. S..., Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk and Mr R. Scrivener.

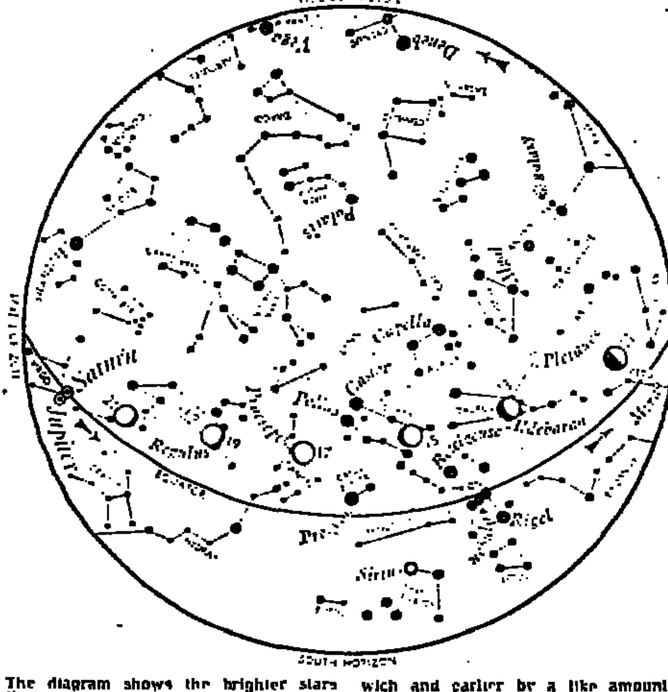
Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended a dinner given by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen at Fishmongers' Hall yesterday. The Master, Mr S. E. A. Spong, presided, assisted by the Senior Warden, Mr C. P. Braithwaite, and the Junior Wardens, Mr R. J. Coe, Mr A. C. Clark-Kennedy and Mr D. J Piper. Among others present were:

Lord Trefgarne, Lord Aldington, Alderman Sir Robin Gillett, Lieutenant-General Sir David Willison, Mr John Snagge, Rear-Admiral J. H. Carlill, Captain Miles R. Wingate, Mr J. G. Paige, Mr Alderman H. C. P. Bidwell, Mr J. E. Norton, Mr G. C. V. Davidge, Mr P. R. Coul and Mr J. E. Garion.

Service dinner

Royal Corps of Transport
Officers of the Royal Corps of Transport held a dinner at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot, last night. The Director General of Transport and Movements, Major-General F. J. Plaskett, presided. The principal guests were:

Sir Robert Lawrence, Major-General E. J. Hellier, Major-General G. B. Sinclair, Brigadier R. W. Dawnay, Brigadier D. N. Locke, Mr Alderman Christopher Leaver, Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Clarkson and Mr Hamish Logan.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23hr (11 pm) at the beginning 22hr (10 pm) in the middle and 21hr (9 pm) at the end of the month, local Mean Time. At places away from the Greenwich Meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notations, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

The night sky in February

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury will be at greatest evening elongation on the 1st but it will be only 18°, the planet will be past its brightest, and will be very low in the sky. Inferior conjunction is on the 17th.

Venus will be rising only about an hour before the Sun, but as it is still very bright it might be observable low in the south-east.

Mars is a not very bright object in the sunset glow, setting about an hour after the Sun and not really observable.

Jupiter now rises early enough to appear on the map. Last month it overtook Saturn from west to east. Since then both planets have reversed their motion and will be in conjunction again on the 19th.

Saturn is close to Jupiter and like it in retrograde motion. Moon in the area on the night 21-22, rather to the left of the position shown on the map.

Uranus is a morning star in Libra, rising at about 02h.

Neptune is a morning star in Ophiuchus, rising at about 04h.

The Moon: new, 4d22h (eclipse); first quarter, 11d18h; full, 18d23h; last quarter, 27d01h. At the time of our map, 23h, the Moon will be somewhat to the left of the image drawn. On the night of the 12th the Moon will be close to the star Aldebaran, and for observers in Scotland it will pass in front of it at about 22h55m and hide it for 25 minutes. The boundary between "occultation" and "no occultation", and near which observers will see the Moon graze the star, runs from Hornsea on the Yorkshire coast, through Ravenglass on the Cumberland coast, to north-east Belfast.

The solar eclipse on the 4th will not be visible from the United Kingdom. It will be an annular one over the south Pacific Ocean, and partial over parts of Australia and South America.

Algol: approximate times of evening minima are 13d22h and 16d19h.

The apparent motions of the planets Jupiter and Saturn are of interest at present; what we observe is the combined effect of their motion and ours. The further a plant is from the Sun the more slowly it moves, the period of Jupiter being 12 years and Saturn 29. Jupiter therefore will overtake Saturn, as seen from the Sun, on April 16.

However, the motion of the Earth complicates the issue. Just as a train being overtaken by the observer in a faster train seems to go backwards, so do exterior planets as seen from the overtaking Earth. Jupiter was seen to pass Saturn in the normal west-east manner on January 14.

Saturn was "stationary" on the 19th and Jupiter on the 25th, and both began their reverse or "retrograde" motion. This will lead to another overtaking, or "planetary conjunction", on February 19.

"Opposition", when the Earth will be exactly between the exterior planet and the Sun, and the planet at its nearest to us for the current year, will be on March 26 for Jupiter and March 27 for Saturn.

Jupiter will end its retrograde motion on May 28, when it will be halfway between the two westernmost stars of Virgo. Saturn does not move back so far and will be stationary near the second star from the west on June 6. Normal "direct" motion from west to east will then be resumed and a third conjunction of the two planets, Jupiter overtaking, will be on July 30.

Triple conjunctions are fairly rare, the interval being over a century. Such an event occurred in 7 BC and is one of the explanations offered for the Star of Bethlehem. It is suggested that astrologers in Chaldea felt that something important was pending; they started their journey after the first conjunction in May, were encouraged in their travels by the second in September, and arrived for the third in December. There are, of course, other theories and we can never know what is really meant by the Gospel story.

The night sky as such does not call for much additional comment, for the remarks made in January still hold. Pegasus is now setting and Virgo rising. Arcturus has been added to the brilliant collection of first magnitude stars above the horizon in late evening. Readers are reminded that the January map, except for the Moon, is valid for 21h at the beginning of February and 19h at the end of the month.

Note for readers of *The Times* booklet *The Night Sky 1981*: The positions of the Moon were inadvertently not drawn for 10 pm as stated in the introduction: at that hour the Moon will be to the left, east, of the image shown which is roughly correct for one day earlier than printed.

Photograph by David Jones

Mrs Margaret Thatcher greeting Mr Kingman Brewster, the American Ambassador, and Mrs Brewster at the Pilgrims' dinner last night.

Youth theatre may keep its home

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The National Youth Theatre has been promised that it can keep the Shaw Theatre as a base as long as it can maintain the building as a flourishing theatre throughout the year, Mr Michael Croft, the youth theatre's director, said yesterday.

After the youth theatre lost its Arts Council grant for 1981-82 and the professional Shaw Theatre Company suffered in a similar fashion, it appeared that Camden Council, which owns the building in Euston Road, London, was considering an alternative tenant.

However, Camden leaders met members of the youth theatre's board on Wednesday evening, and the council subsequently assured the youth theatre that if it could demonstrate its ability to maintain a flourishing theatre at the Shaw the council would not seek to dispossess it.

Mr Croft said they would put their proposals to the council early in March, and he was optimistic that they could work out a programme that would be commercially viable and keep the theatre in constant use.

For about half the year he thought there could be a mixture of youth, community and ethnic theatre groups from the Camden area, coupled with commercial events such as rock concerts.

Mr Croft thought £75,000 would be needed to launch the theatre safely on such a course and a fighting fund has been established.

English nineteenth-century ceramics attract bids

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

English nineteenth-century ceramics, a collecting field with virtually no international appeal apart from the American devotion to Wedgwood, proved a strong market at Sotheby's Belgravia yesterday with a sale totalling £48,193 and 7 per cent unsold. English dealers and collectors are apparently still comfortably supplied with spending money.

The quirky moulded wares made at the Belleek factory in Northern Ireland proved one of the strongest fields, with Irish bidders over for the sale. A seven-piece "Tridacna" pattern tea set, moulded with shell-like ribbing and tinted pink, sold for £240 (estimate £120-£180) and seven pieces from a "grass ware" set made the same price (estimate £150-£200).

The highest price in the sale was £1,300 (estimate £250-£350) for a 32-piece Ridgway dessert service of about 1825; the strong bidding reflected the high quality of the hand-painted flower decoration.

Relics saved by freeze-dry food treatment

From Our Correspondent
York

Modern food preservation methods are being used on archaeological finds in York.

Rare Viking artifacts recovered from the city's Coppergate dig are being freeze dried to enable them to be displayed without danger of deterioration. The process was developed by the food industry to preserve vegetables.

Boots and buckets, bowls and gaming boards dating back a thousand years have been saved from destruction in the work, pioneered by the York Archeological Trust conservator, Mr James Spriggs.

The process involves deep freezing the objects, which have survived centuries intact in the moist soil but rot on contact with the air. Then they are placed in a freeze-drying unit and a vacuum is applied. Under those conditions the ice evaporates overcoming the damaging effects caused by water drying out of the material.

Docklands Settlements

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon will be present at the Dockland Settlements charity's annual dinner to be held at the Glaziers' Hall, 9 Montague Close, London Bridge, on Tuesday, March 24, 1981. Information regarding tickets, etc, can be obtained by telephoning Mr H. Fletcher, 01-987 3027.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr William Harding to be Ambassador to Brazil, and Mr William McQuillan to be Ambassador to Iceland.

Mr Trevor Clay to be general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing. He will succeed Miss Catherine Hall in July, 1982.

Memorial services

Lord Coleraine
The Prime Minister was represented by Mr Ian Gow, MP, at a memorial service for Lord Coleraine which took place at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday. Canon John Baker officiated, assisted by Canon John Morris. Mrs Diana Spearman read from *Return from Utopia*, by Richard Law (Lord Coleraine), and Lord Coleraine (son) read the lesson. Lord Blake gave an address. Others present included:

Lady Coleraine (daughter-in-law), the Hon Andrew and Mrs Law (son and daughter-in-law), the Hon Elizabeth Law and the Hon Henrietta Law (granddaughters), Lady Archibald (sister), Mrs Frank Davy, Mr Alan Sykes.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, the Earl of Avon, Viscount Boyd of Merton, Lord and Lady Tranmire, Lord Stamp, Lord Nugent of Guildford, Lord Garner, Lord Inglewood, Lord Strathclyde, Lord and Lady Cockfield, Lady Blake, Lord Carr of Hadley, Mr Enoch Powell, MP, and Mrs Powell, the Hon Mrs Robert Boscawen, Sir John and Lady Mellor, Sir Derrick and Lady Gunston, Sir Thomas Ferens, Sir Charles and Lady Mott-Radclyffe, Sir James Pitman (Boots Charitable Trust), Sir Charles Taylor, Sir Gordon Hobday (the Lord Lieutenant of Humberside) and Mrs Rupert Alec-Smith, Mr R. W. Houssemayne du Boulay (representing the Diplomatic Service), Mrs Patrick Wall, Professor Donald Moss and Professor R. B. Welbourn (Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London University), Dr W. Hamilton (Shrewsbury School), Mr and Mrs Donald Forbes, Mr and Mrs Desmond A. Reid, Mr C. J. Baker (chairman, Victory Insurance Company) and Mrs Baker, Mr William R. Smith (Clydesdale Bank), Mrs John Morris, Colonel W. R. Bowden and Mr James Lee-Potter.

Professor N. H. K. A. Coghill
A memorial service for Professor Neville Coghill was held yesterday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev Graham Shaw, Chaplain of Exeter College, officiated, assisted by the Rev Peter Cornwell. The Dean of Christ Church, the Very Rev E. W. Heaton, pronounced the blessing. Miss Elaine Griffiths read the lesson. Mr Derek Hart read from the prologue to *Piers Plowman*, Mr Peter O'Shaughnessy from *Troilus and Cressida* and Sir John Gielgud from *The Tempest*. Professor Herbert Nicholas gave an address. Oxford University was represented by Mr J. B. Bamborough, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of Linacre College, and the Pro-Proctors: Exeter College by Mr W. G. Barr, Rector, and fellows; and Merton College by Dr Courtenay Phillips, acting Warden, and fellows.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Bamford, Mrs Emily May, of Forest Row, West Sussex £154,587
Barrett, Mr Thomas, of East Grinstead £127,755
Cornev, Mrs Hilda, of Midhurst, West Sussex £138,661
Mansfield, Mrs Marjorie Frances, of Norwich £190,963
Mather, Mrs Janet Lynne, of Sittingbourne, Kent £139,299
Mulimer, Mrs Elsie Walne, of Pulham St Mary, Norfolk £378,650

University news

Oxford
Dr J. A. A. Stockwin, reader in the department of political science, Australian National University, Canberra, has been appointed the first Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies.

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, January 30, 1956

Cyprus precautions

From Our Special Correspondent in Cyprus

With nearly 20,000 troops now available for operation in an area about half the size of Wales the military resources at the disposal of the Governor of Cyprus, Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, can be considered adequate. But because of the basic unsuitability of troops for many of the tasks that should more properly fall on civilian police and intelligence forces, the general security in the island is less satisfactory than the military strength suggests. Nevertheless there are now visible the outward signs of determination to reimpose a control that seemed, nine months ago, to have been tacitly abandoned.

OBITUARY

MISS ISOBEL ELSOM

Noted stage and film actress

Miss Isobel Elsom, the actress, has died in Los Angeles aged 87.

For some time between the wars, she was among the most acclaimed West End players; a frequently statuesque beauty, "the finest flush of womanhood as Sir Frederick Leighton might have painted it", said a critic.

She reached the legitimate stage from musical comedy, and developed an emotional readiness that served her well on the occasions when she was Matheson Lang's leading lady. But she had other gifts. Probably her least expected feat was to go straight from Joanne in a 1924 revival of *The Wandering Jew* to Jill in a *Mother Goose* pantomime at the London Hippodrome.

Unluckily for her permanent reputation, she was seldom in anything long remembered; successes in their day were soon obliterated by the flow of new productions. But her vitality and technique as "One of our most sophisticated actresses" endured, and after an unfortunate sequence in the mid 1930s she was prepared for nearly 20 plays in repertory at the Prince of Wales's, Cardiff. Though she had not returned to London since the autumn of 1936, she made a small but honourable place on the American stage and in films.

Born near Cambridge in March, 1893, she acted in the chorus of *The Quaker Girl* (Adelphi, 1911) and continued for three years in musical comedy. At the beginning of the First World War she followed Gladys Cooper in the various and complicated leading parts of Edward Knoblock's episodic *My Lady's Dress* and after two months went to one of the earliest war plays, *The Man who Stayed at Home*. She gained experience by touring with Seymour Hicks in farce, and at the New Theatre (1917) playing Wendy in *Peter Pan*.

Her first real triumph, apart from plays as different in key as *Up in Mabel's Room* and *Sweet Lavender*, was the crippled girl in Dorothy Brandon's *The Outsider* (1923). Though James Agate confessed a previous inability to appreciate Miss Elsom, he noted this now as "amazingly inventive and varied". She "arrived at a bound at a sufficiency about which there was something magnificent". Next she agonized in the melodrama of *The Green Goddess* with which the austere William Archer had startled his colleagues; and she was in two plays with Matheson Lang, a revival of *The Wandering Jew* and *The Tyrant* ("exquisite", Lang said). In New York for two years, 1926-28, she was cast surprisingly as the pathetic Mrs Jones in Galsworthy's *The Silver Box*.

Back in London, and again with Lang (*Such Men are Dangerous*), she had a sequence of plays of which none but a revival of *The Outsider* did much for her; she was Coward's Amanda in an Australian revival of *Private Lives*; ultimately, after more London work of no special account and a fatiguing Cardiff repertory season, she went to America where her most noticeable part was in *Ladies in Retirement* (Henry Miller, New York, 1940). She continued to act intermittently in New York and other cities for over 20 years. Beginning her film career as soon as 1921, she starred in more than 60 early British romantic films and did a good deal of work, later in Hollywood.

Her husbands were, successively, Maurice Elvey, the film director (the marriage was dissolved), and Carl Harbord, who pre-deceased her.

MR C. V. DAVIDGE

Mr C. V. Davidge, who had been Sub-Warden, Bursar and law tutor at Keble College, Oxford, died in the hunting field on January 27. He was 79.

Cecil Vere Davidge was born in 1901, the son of Cecil William and Elsie Davidge. His father was Professor of English at Kobe University, Japan. He was educated at Abingdon School, and at Pembroke College, Oxford. He got a place high in the Second Class, both in Law Finals and in BCL. His influence on his college was profound.

He found the Pembroke boat very low down on the river; in three years he brought it to a high position in the first division. It is ironical that his prowess as a stroke was destined to be eclipsed by that of his son Christopher, for he himself was a great stroke, whose omission from the Trial Eights is an unexplained absurdity.

Davidge had always had in his mind the possibility of an eventual return to the university, and an academic career, but he first went into chambers, and prepared himself for a life at the Bar. While waiting for briefs, he had the good fortune to meet with Dr Iremonger, then editor of *The Guardian*, a journal devoted to religious affairs, who gave him the post of sub-editor. To this chance may be ascribed his interest in ecclesiastical law, and all things pertaining to the Church of England.

In 1928 he married Catherine Smyth, daughter of Christopher Smyth, the owner of the beautiful old Northamptonshire estate of Little Houghton. He acquired his wife's love of the country, of farming, and especially of horses. He, who had not previously ridden to any great extent, became an enthusiastic follower of the Pytchley Hunt.

They had two children, a son and a daughter. His wife died in 1948.

Soon after his marriage, he returned to Oxford, to be law tutor of Keble. He found the ecclesiastical atmosphere of the college much to his taste. He became its most efficient bursar. His country interests, in conjunction with his considerable natural capacity, enabled him to revolutionize the financial policy of the college. Previously it had no agricultural property, but Davidge bought farms at the most favourable period, and greatly increased the college's prosperity. In 1965, he became sub-warden, retiring in 1968.

Davidge was an admirable teacher, who never spared himself in the service of his pupils. He was, in addition, a stimulating lecturer and an eminently fair examiner. He was Senior Proctor of the University 1945-46. He was a valued and indispensable member of the Law Board, and showed, in his two years as chairman, that he possessed that desirable faculty of getting through business expeditiously.

His interest in rowing, his own achievements therein, these and his pride in his son, who did such great things on the river, for Eton, for Oxford, and for England, made him an obvious choice for the Treasurership of the OUBC. He attracted rowing men to Keble, and it is largely due to his efforts that it became one of the two leading colleges on the river. His preoccupation with his Oxford life never caused him to lose interest in his Northamptonshire home. He was most active as landlord and as patron of the living. In 1950 he was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. In 1961 he made a happy second marriage, with Philippa Lester, of Green's Norton, Northamptonshire, daughter of his old friend, Philip Lester, by whom he had a son and daughter.

Davidge was a most popular man. He was for many years Secretary of the Law Club; always much in demand as a guest, he had no peer as a host.

MR GEORGE SKIBINE

Mr George Skibine, the Russo-American ballet-dancer and choreographer, has died in Dallas, Texas, in his 61st year.

Born in Yasnaya Poliana in 1920, the son of Boris Skibine, of the Diaghilev Ballet, Skibine studied under several eminent Russian émigré teachers of dance in Paris before making his debut at the Bal Tabarin as a can-can dancer and as a classical dancer with the Ballets de la Jeunesse in 1937.

In 1938 he joined René Blum's Ballets de Monte Carlo and in 1940 went to Australia with de Basil's Original Ballet Russe. He emigrated to the United States where he danced with various American troupes, including the Ballet Theatre in 1941, and Markova-Dolin in 1946. In between he served in the United States Forces (1942-45) and became a United States citizen in 1945.

After a spell as an interpreter he was persuaded by Sol Hurok to return to the world of the dance and in 1947 became a member of the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, where he met the American dancer Marjorie Tallchief, whom he married in that year. He created his first ballet (*Tragédie de Vérone*, 1948) with Cuevas, for whom he also staged *Roméo et Juliette* to music by Berlioz in the Cour Carrée of the Louvre in 1955. In 1956 he and his wife joined the Paris Opéra, of which he became ballet-master in 1958, a post he held for four years and one that earned him the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1967.

After a period as a free-lance, partly in Germany, he became Artistic Director of the Harkness Ballet (1964-66) and of the Dallas Civic Ballet and of its Academy (1969-74). He will chiefly be remembered for his romantic masculinity and poetic grace as a dancer. His many ballets were mostly versions of the classics (eg, *Daphnis et Chloë*, 1959, *Les Noces*, 1962, and *L'Oiseau de Feu*, 1967), but several new works, such as *Annabel Lee* (1951, music by Schiffmann), *Prisoner of the Caucasus* (1951, Khachaturian), *Idylle* (1954, Serette), and *Les Bandar Log* (1969, Koechlin), created in the shadow of his master, Serge Lifar, also showed a markedly original dramatic sense. He was much in demand as a teacher as well.

MR MALCOLM MacDONALD

Stephen Kemp writes:

Your obituary does not perhaps do justice to the volume and variety of voluntary work which Malcolm MacDonald undertook in the last 10 years of his life. This involved frequent visits to London and, because he had no motor car, it often meant walking five miles from his home, Raspit Hill, to Sevenoaks railway station and five miles back at the end of a long day packed with engagements.

Among many other interests he was president of the Royal Commonwealth Society from 1971 till his death, and as such took a keen and active day-to-day interest in Commonwealth Affairs, in the running of the society, in its members and in its staff. He was always ready to use his wide influence and contacts in the interest of the Commonwealth, of the Society and of individual people who approached him for help and advice. Nothing was ever too much trouble and no one was too unimportant to engage his attention.

Colonel Ali Iqtedar Shah Dara, the senior vice-president of the International Hockey Federation, died on January 16. He was 69. Colonel Dara, a farmer, president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, was a former Olympic hockey player and captained the Pakistan team for many years.

Lieutenant-General Muhammad Yousuf, formerly Chief of the General Staff of the Pakistan Army who had been High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom and later first Ambassador for Pakistan in London, died in hospital in Rawalpindi on January 25. He was 72.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Rowton Simpson, OBE, who died on January 12, was a Deputy Lieutenant for Leicestershire.

Lady Hulbert, who died on January 12, married Wing Commander Sir Norman Hulbert, MP, in 1938. The marriage was dissolved by divorce in 1960. He died in 1972. A qualified doctor, she had been a member of the old London County Council and Westminster City Council and was a Justice of the Peace for the county of London. She was Eileen Pearl, daughter of Dr B. Gretton-Watson.

Professor Stephan Hurwitz, who was Denmark's first Ombudsman, holding office from 1955 to 1971, died in Copenhagen on January 23. He was 80.

Mr Austin Arthur Lemon Lane, CBE, who died on January 9, was Deputy Chief Engineer, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, from 1959 to 1964.

Brigadier Euston Edward Francis Baker, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, who died on January 17 at the age of 85, served with distinction in the First World War with The Middlesex Regiment. He was awarded the DSO, MC and Bar and was three times mentioned in dispatches and commanded the second battalion of the regiment. He commanded a TA Infantry Brigade in the Second World War, was a Deputy Lieutenant for Middlesex and later Greater London and a Justice of the Peace for Buckinghamshire.

Dr Wilopo, the former Indonesian Premier, died in Jakarta on January 20 at the age of 71. He was replaced by Idham Chalid as chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council, President Suharto's board of political and military advisers, three years ago.

Mr Hugh William Border, who died on January 14 at the age of 90, spent many years in the Consular Service. He was HM Consul-General in Seville from 1945 to 1950.

Science report

Materials: Towards a stronger cement

By the Staff of *Nature*

A team at the Mond Division of ICI in Runcorn, Cheshire, has discovered a way of increasing the strength of cement. It is likely to extend considerably the value of cement, which has always been limited by its brittleness and inability to resist bending under tension.

Dr J. Birchall and colleagues were following up earlier attempts to relate the strength of cement to the size of the pores it contains. The approach they used was to subject rectangular bars of cement to a standard engineering experiment known as the Griffith test.

Placed horizontally, a bar was supported at each end and had a notch cut across the underside. Then a load was applied from above, sufficient to bend and fracture the bar. The relationship between that load and the depth of the notch provides a measure of certain material properties of the cement and its resistance to bending.

A notch of that sort has the effect of enhancing the tendency of any material to fracture when bent, so that the shallower the notch, the larger the load required to fracture the bar. With pure materials, that fracture load increases particularly rapidly as the depth of the notch decreases.

With ordinary Portland cement, however, that relationship applied only for comparatively large notches. Dr Birchall and colleagues found that the fracture load remained at a constant low level when the notch was shallower than one millimetre, highlighting cement's weakness under those conditions. As the team had suspected, that turned out to be caused by the natural flaws in the cement.

Microscopic examination of the cement showed minute pores or pockets of air of various sizes. Significantly, the largest had a diameter of about one millemetre. Cement is well known to contain such pores, and so far it has been assumed that its weakness could be decreased if the volume of air it contained could be reduced by new, and probably more expensive, methods of manufacture.

The Griffith test, however, suggested that the maximum size of pores is more significant than their total volume in any slab of cement.

The team prepared samples of cement which contained the same proportion of air as Portland cement, but with the largest pores one tenth of the normal size. When subjected to the Griffith test, that cement proved to be nearly six times as strong as Portland cement.

Minute cracks form in a brittle material such as cement when it is subjected to a tension load, and the new results suggest that the cracks develop more easily when the pores are large.

Interestingly, the modified cement was also more resistant than usual to compressive forces. So it should prove to be an attractive material not only where cement has always been inappropriate because of its weakness, but also for conventional uses, such as building foundations.

Source: *Nature*, January 29, 1981 (vol 289, p 388).

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

What the Datsun scheme means for Britain, page 19

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 463.1 up 3.7
FT Gilts 69.09 up 0.24

■ **Sterling**
$ 2.3975 down 115 pts
Index 81.4 down 0.2

■ **Dollar**
Index 88.8 up 0.4
DM 2.0955 up 153 pts

■ **Gold**
$490.50 down $34

■ **Money**
3-mth sterling 14[illegible]-13[illegible]
3-mth Euro $ 17[illegible]-17[illegible]
6-mth Euro $ 16[illegible]-16[illegible]

IN BRIEF

1,000 more Midlands car jobs go

Almost 1,000 workers are to lose their jobs at Talbot Ryton and Land-Rover, Solihull, in the West Midlands.

A 23 per cent cut at Ryton, which assembles French-made Alpine and Solara cars, will reduce the 2,250-strong labour force by 525. The move raises new fears about the company's *future after the serious financial* losses reported by its French parent company, Peugeot.

But a Talbot spokesman said that the latest cut would enable the company to introduce "more economical production at Ryton than has been possible since last August when two-day working was brought in". The plant subsequently went on a one-day week.

"Now, we can switch to a four-day week, and increase production from 260 to 800 cars a week. The big cut in production was not due solely to the recession in sales.

When Datsun drives in, page 19

Bank unions reject 8.5 pc pay offer

Union negotiators yesterday rejected an 8.5 per cent offer made to 170,000 staff in the five main clearing banks.

Representatives of both the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU), and the Clearing Bank Union (CBU) will resume talks in a fortnight with the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers which was adamant last night that the settlement from April should be in single figures.

Massey delays annual meeting

Massey-Ferguson is delaying its annual meeting from March to April 28 to allow more time for clarification of its financing plan for which an agreement was reached with its major lenders earlier this month in London.

The company said that negotiations with lenders, particularly for the support from the governments of Canada and Ontario were continuing.

Bristol opposes bid

Bristol Evening Post group, which publishes the *Evening Post*, the *Western Daily Press* and *New Observer* is opposing the £7.76m bid of 190p a share from Associated Newspapers. The company is waiting for Associated to send out its formal offer before giving details of its opposition.

Glass investment

Glass manufacturers in Britain will be investing £21m this year in plant and new technology, Mr David Margand marketing director of United Glass said in Glasgow.

More liquidations

More than 6,800 companies went into liquidation last year, 52 per cent more than in the previous year. Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, said in a Commons written reply.

Wall Street up

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 948.89, up 6.31 on Wall Street yesterday. The $-SDR rate was 1.25071 and the £-SDR was 0.520804.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

AAH	6p to 188p	Metal Box	8p to 164p
Eva Industries	4p to 41p	Muirhead	13p to 101p
Hawker Siddeley	6p to 250p	*Polly Peck*	*8p to 183p*
Int Thomson	8p to 307p	Racal Elec	7p to 312p
Lincroft Kilgour	8p to 28p	Sun Alliance	12p to 706p

Falls

Anglo Am Gold	£3 to £34	Lasmo	13p to 669p
Aurora Hldgs	3p to 24p	Lonsdale Univ	8p to 37p
Cons Gold Flds	20p to 446p	SA Land	30p to 193p
Duport	5½p to 8p	Sotheby, P. B.	18p to 427p
Kinross	31p to 525p	UC Invest	30p to 380p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.12	2.04	Norway Kr	13.35	12.80
Austria Sch	37.00	35.00	Portugal Esc	136.50	128.50
Belgium Fr	82.50	79.00	South Africa Rd	2.20	2.05
Canada $	2.95	2.87	Spain Pta	201.00	192.50
Denmark Kr	15.95	15.25	Sweden Kr	11.32	10.82
Finland Mkk	9.90	9.45	Switzerland Fr	4.70	4.47
France Fr	11.88	11.38	USA $	2.46	2.39
Germany DM	5.17	4.94	Yugoslavia Dnr	88.00	83.00
Greece Dr	122.00	115.00			
Hongkong $	12.95	12.35			
Ireland Pt	1.38	1.33			
Italy Lir	2480.00	2370.00			
Japan Yn	513.00	487.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.59	5.35			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Shell and BP set to resume purchase of crude oil from Iran

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Shell is to resume buying oil from Iran. Industry sources in London yesterday confirmed that the Anglo-Dutch group had agreed to purchase about 100,000 barrels a day, the first oil to be bought from Iran by *the group since March last year.*

British Petroleum, which stopped buying from Iran at the same time as Shell, is having talks in Tehran on resuming deliveries. Reports suggest it might take about 50,000 barrels a day.

The return of the American hostages and lifting of sanctions against Iran by EEC countries has ended any diplomatic obstacle Shell or BP might have felt in resuming Iranian purchases. Despite the fact that four Britons are still detained in Iran, the British Government has placed no restriction on commercial deals.

Both Shell and British Petroleum relied on Iran, when it was ruled by the Shah, for an important slice of their supplies. *The revolution resulted in both* companies having their deliveries cut back, with BP losing about one million barrels a day.

In the first quarter last year, both companies were taking about 265,000 barrels a day between them, but neither renewed contracts in April when the *effective price rose to $35* a barrel at a time when the comparable Saudi Arabian crude was priced *at only $26 a barrel.*

Iranian prices have recently fallen more into line with other producers, although for their quality they are still among the dearest of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Relatively small rises by Iran after the December Opec meeting on the Indonesian island of Bali have put its main crude at $37 a barrel with 60 days credit, which although $5 more than the comparable Saudi oil is little more than other Gulf producers are charging. It is not known whether, as in the past, Iran is demanding premiums on part of its deliveries.

Iran's exports have grown substantially in recent weeks. *At the start of the Gulf war in* September, its exports were cut off, as were those of Iraq, when an explosion severed its pipeline to Turkey.

Iraqi deliveries through the pipeline have been uncertain since it restarted, causing intense problems to Turkey, which in late December was down to five days' supply.

The pipeline has been operating since Christmas at around 380,000 barrels a day, and Turkey's first quarter supplies, with deliveries from both Iraq and Iran, have been assured.

Iran is now producing around one million barrels a day and exporting between 600,000 and 700,000 barrels a day, equal to its pre-war output. A recent attack on Kharg Island, its main export terminal, seems to have had little effect.

Supplies from the two warring countries, coupled with a greater than expected fall in world demand as the recession continues, has resulted in less pressure on exports from other sources, and a lower drawing on stocks in consumer countries than had been predicted.

Although the loss of the greater part of the pre-war deliveries from Iraq and Iran is still causing a faster rundown in oil stocks than would normally be expected at this time of the year, worries over supplies are receding.

Oil analysts, however, are still unsure whether there will be sufficient supplies available to meet the need to restock during the summer to face next winter's demand.

Receivers called in to Airfix group

By Roman Eisenstein

Airfix Industries, the Dinky Toys and Meccano group, yesterday collapsed owing £15m to its banking creditors. The banks called in the receivers after rejecting a scheme for financial reconstruction.

Mr Ralph Ehrmann, the chairman, said "We were all very surprised the banks were not prepared to accept the proposals as presented. They seemed very reasonable to us and our advisers. The companies were viable and it was the weight of central debt that was holding the group down."

S. G. Warburg, the group's financial advisers, had proposed a scheme which included a large measure of capital reconstruction. *It was presented to* the creditor banks on Wednesday morning and unanimously rejected by the afternoon. Fifteen banks are involved, including all the clearing banks and the group is led by National Westminster, which is owed £8m.

The rescue scheme involved the creation of preference shares convertible into ordinary shares, effectively turning some of the debt into long-term equity finance. It was essentially made up of three proposals:

The turning of about half of the debt into convertible preference shares.

The dropping of interest payments on part of the debt.

Change of some of the short-term commitments into medium-term loans and the delaying of interest payment on these.

A spokesman for National *Westminster Bank said yester*day that the banks had been involved in discussions over Airfix since early 1980. The aim was to "construct a financial package to assist them through their problems". This included an agreement last November for the sale of Airfix Plastics and Declon, two leading subsidiaries.

Although the debt was reduced from £23m to £15m, the projected requirements of the group were beyond those agreed with the banks.

The spokesman said that "the group's cash flow problems rose to the point where the directors felt that they had no alternative but regretfully to request to appoint receivers."

The November package included monthly account reports and projections previously agreed with the banks. These showed that further finance *would be needed while the* agreements had provided for decreasing borrowings.

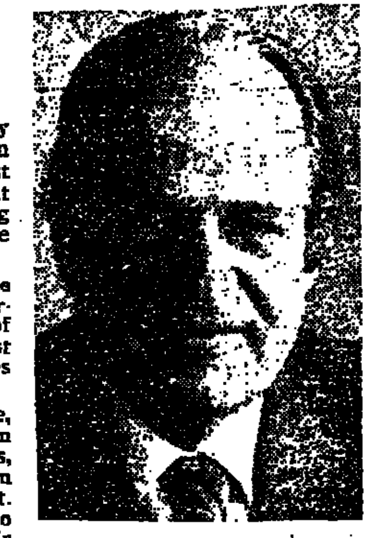
Airfix's problems arose directly from the troubles of the toy industry.

Mr Ehrmann said yesterday that the company had been affected by high interest charges, exports had been hit by the high level of sterling and sales were affected by the recession.

At the interim stage for the six months to September, Airfix had reported a loss of £2.3m. The board had *forecast* a reduction of trading losses before interest charges.

Airfix employs 650 people, and although it is best known for its Meccano and Dinky toys, its main products have been plastics kits for model aircraft. The two joint receivers who have been appointed are Mr W. Mackey and Mr W. Roberts, both from the leading City auditors, Ernst & Whinney.

Mr Ehrmann said his main concern at present was to preserve jobs. He said: "We hope to create a viable company for people who are here and have given their career to the group. I'll do my utmost to help maintain employment."


Mr Ehrmann: surprised at move by banks.

Hill Samuel replaces Hambros at BPC

By Richard Allen

Hill Samuel yesterday filled the breach left by Hambros Bank, who resigned as merchant bank advisers to BPC, the priting and publishing group.

While speculation mounted over the future of the group, no executives were available for comment. Several BPC directors, including Mr Peter Robinson, the chairman, were said to be in meetings.

A spokesman for National Westminster Bank, bankers to BPC, would neither confirm nor deny suggestions that a team from the bank's troubleshooting industrial unit had been in talks with the board since the *beginning of this week.*

National Westminster is owed a substantial amount of BPC's debt which stood at £43m at the end of last year and including overdrafts of £22m.

It is thought that Hambros withdrew as advisers earlier this week after only four months on the advice of NatWest who was attempting to defuse a potentially explosive boardroom dispute over the involvement of Mr Robert Maxwell with the group.

Mr Maxwell, head of Pergamon Press, has been seeking a directorship at BPC since acquiring a 29.5 per cent stake through a £2.9m "dawn raid" on the stockmarket last July.

With BPC's shares down a *further 1p to 16p yesterday*, Mr Maxwell is currently showing a paper loss on this purchase of over £1m. It is understood that Mr Maxwell has been allowed the use of an office at BPC's Print House headquarters in London over the last two weeks.

At Mr Maxwell's private office a spokesman said that the Pergamon chief was "travelling". He added: "Mr Maxwell doesn't usually return press calls."

Last year BPC revealed interim losses of £6.5m and there are fears in the City that this deficit could rise to at least £10m for the full year. Last autumn the group sold its *Jane's Fighting Ships* division to International Thomson Organisation for over £3m in a move to reduce short-term borrowings.

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Lloyd's Bill likely to be redrafted

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

Controversial clauses in the draft Bill designed to tighten self-regulation at Lloyd's, the London insurance market, are likely to be redrafted as a result of opposition from some Lloyd's members and MPs.

Following objections from some MPs at the Bill's second-reading stage in the House of Commons, the Lloyd's committee has taken the unusual step of offering to redraft what many opponents saw as the Bill's most contentious aspect—Clause 11.

This clause would effectively *have given the 26-man ruling* council, to be set up under the new Act, a blanket indemnity against legal action by underwriting members in the wake of market disputes.

The newly-formed Association of External Members of Lloyd's has been campaigning vigorously for this clause to be removed.

A market spokesman said last night that Lloyd's had asked *Parliament that detailed discussion* on this aspect should be deferred until the new Lloyd's ruling council, envisaged under the Bill, is established.

The Bill would in the meantime be redrafted to empower the council to make a bye-law dealing with the Lloyd's society's legal liabilities. Before such a bye-law became effective *it would require confirmation* by the Privy Council and approval by both Houses of Parliament.

The spokesman added that Lloyd's had also agreed to discuss certain other controversial aspects of the Bill with a view to changes being made.

Although welcoming the move last night, Mr David Watkins-Cronin, secretary of the Association of External Members said that *the Bill still* needed "fairly radical surgery".

Two members of the association have petitioned against the Bill in Parliament. Among their objections are the fact that only six underwriting names are to be represented on the planned ruling council and that the Bill does not refer to divestment *of underwriting interests by* Lloyd's brokers.

Decca has 'turned the corner'

By Margareta Pagano

Speaking publicly for the first time since Racal Electronics acquired the troubled Decca empire for £106m last year, Mr Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman, last night assured the City that Decca has now turned the corner.

The scepticism expressed at the time of the bid, particularly the price, for a company in desperate trouble had been proved wrong. Mr Harrison noted confidently that Decca, which in the last financial year to March lost £12.2m, would be adding significantly to profits in the next financial year, 1981-82. By 1983, it should be yielding substantial profits with improved margins.

But results for the first half of the year to October released yesterday, showed that Decca had again lost £5.2m. Some £3m comes from the capital goods sector and £2.14m from consumer goods. Negotiations are currently under way for the sale of Decca's television manufacturing group in the consumer goods division.

The sale of *fixed assets and plants is expected to yield £16m.* Additionally Racal hopes to sell Decca House on the South Bank for around £8m.

The real problems in the capital goods sector were encountered by the radar group. Overall, this division, which showed losses of £5m and £2m profit, is expected to be profitable after interest charges in the second half of the year. So, *a small loss in the full year is* thought to be the last Decca will experience, Mr Harrison said.

The problems at Decca's radar division, were caused by the fierce competition from Japan and the United States which beat Decca's products both on price and quality.

Some 250 redundancies have been made in the radar division while, overall, 800 employees have been cut from the Decca workforce.

Heavy cuts proposed in US foreign aid programme

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Jan 29

Drastic cuts in America's foreign aid have been proposed by officials in the White House office of management and budget.

The proposals, if approved by President Reagan and Congress, would involve breaking a series of pledges made by the Carter administration to the World Bank, to assorted foreign countries and to America's chief allies at the Venice summit last summer.

In what the budget office describes as a "working paper", the officials are calling for the sharpest cuts in all non-military aid ever made by an American Government in a single year. The cuts total over $2,600m (£1,088m) from an aid programme of £8,000m for the 1982 fiscal year starting on October 1.

A spokesman for the budget office stressed that the paper had been drafted as part of the budget review process ordered by President Reagan, and that no cabinet decisions had yet been taken *on the recommendations.* Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, is likely to oppose the cuts, which are believed to be favoured by Mr David Stockman, the budget director.

The battle over cuts in aid could prove to be Mr Haig's first test of strength within the Cabinet. The State Department is likely to be inundated with *protests from* foreign diplomats as word of the cuts spreads. The budget office advocates cutbacks in spending on every programme, from those dealing with food for the poorest countries to those concerned with the continuation of the United States Peace Corps.


Mr Donald Regan, United States Secretary of the Treasury, who yesterday outlined the new administration's domestic and foreign policies, giving details of tax cutting and public spending proposals. He said the Reagan White House would be "taking a scalpel" to all sectors of public spending.

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The paper, "Foreign Aid Retrenchment", proposes United States withdrawal from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) because of its support of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its views on press freedom, according to the *Washington Post* today.

The budget office spokesman refused to divulge details of the proposals, but it is known that a chief target is the International Development Association (IDA), the concessionary lending affiliate of the World Bank, which lends to the poorest countries. The IDA is already close to bankruptcy because of the failure of the last *Congress to approve* new United States contributions to it.

Few industrial nations give less to foreign aid in terms of gross national product than the United States, whose current contributions total less than 0.2 per cent of gnp.

A further cut would probably do damage to America's prestige and influence throughout the Third World.

Part of the decline in recent years in United States aid has been caused by congressional delays in approving aid pledges made by the White House, with the World Bank and IDA suffering the most.

Gold price plunges to a 10-month low

By Frances Williams

The gold price plummetted yesterday to its lowest level for nearly 10 months, as investors hurried to switch their gold holdings into dollar investments. It fell $34 on the day to close at $490.50 an ounce a low last recorded at the beginning of April last year.

Yesterday's precipitate drop *brings the total fall this week* to $62. Gold is now almost half the record price of $850 to which it soared in January 1980, though it has yet to reach last year's low of $474 in March.

The dollar, boosted by switching out of gold, continued its steady upward path, making gains against all the major currencies, including sterling. The pound lost 1.15 cents to end the day at $2.3975, back to its level of two weeks ago before the release of the American hostages by Iran.

High dollar interest rates and a strong dollar exchange rate have made gold increasingly expensive to hold, in terms of income foregone on alternative interest-bearing investments and in terms of interest pay*able on loans to finance gold* purchases.

These factors have been operating for some time but statements this week by the Reagan Administration have fuelled market pessimism. President Reagan is expected to pursue a firm counter-inflation policy, involving a tight monetary stance and continuing high interest rates.

The authorities have also stated their intention to move quickly towards a balanced budget, and the United States balance of payments position is improving, which will help the dollar.

In New York the gold price dropped below the $500 point in early trading, but closed $7.50 higher at $514.

Its recovery was helped by reports that United States Embassy personnel had been ordered out of Warsaw. The report was denied by the State Department and traders suggested that gold would resume a downward course.

Concern about President Reagan's proposed economic cuts and anti-inflationary measures also weighed on the market.

It is widely thought that the gold price could plunge to $450 or perhaps even to $400, in the absence of fresh demand for the metal.

On the foreign exchange markets the dollar gained 1.53 pfennigs against the Deutschemark, despite heavy intervention by the West German Federal Bank, to close in London at DM2.0955. The pound lost ground to the dollar but maintained Wednesday's five-year high against the Deutschemark, ending the day at DM5.0250.

The troubled mark was further weakened yesterday by news of West Germany's accelerating price inflation and continued reaction to Wednesday's annual economic report, which projects a gloomy outlook for economic activity.

GOLD PRICE
dollars/oz
850 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450
J F M A M J J A S O N D J
80 81

Sir Hugh turns down Fraser post

By Our Financial Staff

House of Fraser directors met again yesterday to discuss defensive tactics against Lonrho's £226m bid and to offer Sir Hugh Fraser, the *ousted chairman, the presidency* of the company.

Meanwhile the stock market was betting that Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland's trading group would win the takeover battle.

Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland left yesterday's meeting after an hour. Sir Hugh said he believed he was too old to *accept the offer of presidency* of the stores group.

However, Professor Roland Smith, the new chairman, said the board thought the post would have been appropriate.

Mr Philip Hawley, the American director who abstained from voting at Wednesday's meeting, was not present yesterday, having flown back to the United States.

Mr Paul Spicer, a director of Fraser and Lonrho, last night said Mr Hawley's role had been to attempt to calm down the atmosphere in the Fraser boardroom.

Lonrho also acted swiftly to deny press reports of comments from Sir Hugh Fraser alleging that Mr Rowland had employed a private detective to investigate Sir Hugh's gambling activities. Mr Spicer said the report was "totally false and without foundation".

He described yesterday's board meeting as "very confused". *It appeared that* Mr Rowland questioned the loyalty of other directors whose votes had ousted Sir Hugh from the chairmanship.

Later Professor Smith put out a statement stressing the board's determination to resist the bid and to "safeguard the future success of House of Fraser as an independent company."

He added: "We regret that Sir Hugh Fraser has chosen to align himself with Lonrho, but our loyalties must remain to the company and its shareholders and not to one man."

A team of three headed by Professor Smith was agreed on at the meeting to organize the defence tactics.

On the stock market, Fraser shares added 2p to 143p, at which level they reflect a conviction among jobbers that the deal will go through. Lonrho shares fell 2p to 95p.

S. G. Warburg, Fraser's merchant bank advisers, revealed yesterday it had picked up 50,000 Fraser shares for a client at 144p, but so far there appears to have been few substantial lines of stock appearing on the market.

Another board meeting is planned for Tuesday. Meanwhile Lonrho is planning a meeting of its shareholders which it needs to approve the offer. Mr Spicer said Lonrho was also planning to look closely at the minutes of Wednesday's meeting as he thought there could be some procedural problems.

New techniques to exploit offshore gas field

£100m saving in Morecambe Bay

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

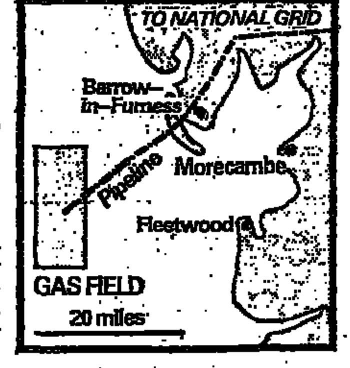
British Gas has developed a new combination of techniques to exploit the Morecambe Bay gas field, the only offshore field where it is the sole licensee.

Use of the techniques, some of which have been pioneered off Peru and in Iran, will save about £100m, a tenth of the cost of the total of £1,000m estimated for the field's development.

They are necessitated by the shallowness of the Morecambe Bay reservoir which was discovered by the state-owned corporation in 1974, and which makes conventional drilling expensive and wasteful of platforms.

With a depth of only 3,000ft conventional drilling would require *between 17 and 20 platforms.* By using a technique of slant drilling, where the drilling derrick is inclined at 30 degrees from the vertical, allowing a maximum deviation into the reservoir of 60 degrees, the field can be fully developed with a maximum of 10 fixed production platforms.

Using a vertical drilling derrick, the deviation possible to tap reservoir reserves would only drain a diameter of 6,000ft around a platform. Slant drilling will increase the diameter to 10,000ft, raising the area to be drained three times. British Gas plans to combine slant drilling, which has been used before, with the use of a mobile jack-up drilling rig.

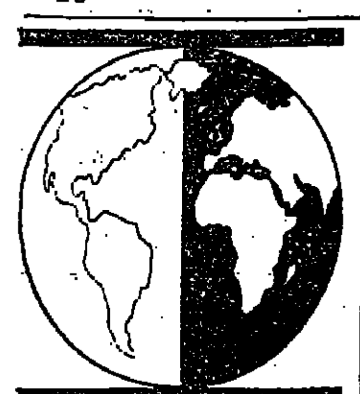


The jack-up will be transferred from platform to platform carrying the slanted derrick which will be skidded on to the drilling platform by means of rails and hydraulics. Standing 20 ft away from the fixed platforms the jack-up will retain all the services required for drilling, including an accommodation unit for 100 people, casing, a helicopter pad, mud tanks and pumps, power, control systems and fire fighting equipment, reducing the weight load on the fixed platforms from the 1,000 tonnes of a conventional system to 300 tonnes.

A three-year drilling programme to develop the 5,000,000 million cubic feet field is envisaged starting in 1982 with first production delivered by 36-inch pipeline close to Barrow-in-Furness for delivery to a station for transfer to the national grid near Kirby Lonsdale, in the winter of 1983/4.

Tenders for the £20m jack-up have already been invited from both British and foreign yards and an order will be placed shortly. Between six and eight drilling platforms costing an estimated £10m each will be used initially as production is built up to a mximum of 1,200 million cubic feet a day a tenth of the expected peak United Kingdom demand in 1985/6. Ten platforms may be used ultimately and a central gas processing platform and accommodation platform are also to be ordered, with contracts starting to be placed at the end of the year.

Morecambe Bay is to be used to meet the wide fluctuation in gas demand between winter and summer, with production being shutdown to as little as 100 milion cubic feet a day during low periods. As a result the field is expected to produce for a minimum of 40 years. The structure of the platforms is to be modified for this exceptionally long life.



US oil price move welcomed

The European Commission yesterday welcomed President Ronald Reagan's decision to advance the timetable for decontrolling the price of oil and oil products in the United States as a step towards better trade relations between the United States and Europe.

In a brief statement, the Commission said the move should contribute to a solution of the important problem of price distortion of American exports in oil derivated products such as petrochemicals and textiles.

EEC members have long argued that dual pricing in the United States gave American chemical products an unfair advantage on the European market and the big gains made by United States exporters helped to sour trade relations between the two sides.

EEC inflation up

December consumer prices in the European Community rose 0.8 per cent in a month and 13.3 per cent from December, 1979, the Eurostat agency reported. It said the average 1980 increase for the community was 13.8 per cent—a sharp upturn from 1979 inflation of 9.9 per cent and the 1978 rate of 7.5 per cent, and higher than the American climb of 13.5 per cent.

Japanese incomes

Average real income of Japanese salaried workers rose in November for the second consecutive month, but spending continued to decline because of inflation. Average incomes in the month were 293,630 yen (£587), up 9.2 per cent in nominal terms and up 0.7 per cent in real terms from a year before.

Energy credit

A syndicate of 62 leading institutions is to provide $1,400m (£583m) for Woodside Petroleum towards funding its 50 per cent share of the Australian North West Shelf project involving supply of gas and other products to various customers.

Iran repaying loans

Iran is believed to be repaying, before maturity, $660m (£275m) of syndicated loans for the Japanese-Iranian joint venture to build a petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini.

Mercedes backs anti-skid braking

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Mercedes Benz, Europe's largest manufacturer of heavy trucks, caused quite a stir in the boardrooms of its competitors yesterday by announcing that it is to go into production of an anti-skid braking system for its trucks and buses.

Until now, the only anti-skid devices available have been offered by component manufacturers for fitting as optional extras. The fact that Mercedes Benz found all these systems wanting for one reason or another weighed heavily with truck operators on the Continent, who tend to equate the Stuttgart company with all that is best in commercial vehicle engineering.

Operators who have held back may now be persuaded to change their minds on the premise that "if it is good enough for Mercedes it is good enough for me".

The havoc wrought by the scything effect of a jack-knifing articulated truck, and ways of countering it, have been the subject of intensive research for at least 20 years. Dunlop was early into the field 10 years ago with the Maxaret system; followed six years later by Girling's Skidcheck.

The result is that today there are more vehicles fitted with anti-skid systems in Britain than anywhere in Europe. Dunlop claims to have 10,000 systems on the road and Girling 4,000.

Most are either petrol tankers or vehicles carrying loads such as chemicals. In almost all cases, the use of anti-skid devices and the type installed have been the subject of detailed negotiations with the Transport and General Workers' Union, representing the drivers.

Anti-skid received a severe setback two years ago after the United States Government introduced premature legislation to make it compulsory. The rush to instal systems became such a bonanza that up to 15 manufacturers appeared on the market. Many of them were underdeveloped, and the consequences were inevitable—accidents and recriminations.

After a law suit brought by vehicle manufacturers, the legislation was withdrawn. But the image of anti-skid systems had been damaged.

Mercedes Benz is demonstrating its system known simply as ABS, to the European press in the snow and ice of Finland north of the Arctic circle. The system's ability to keep a vehicle on a straight line under emergency braking is quite uncanny.

A microcomputer controls and reacts to sensors installed on each wheel, preventing it from locking. The system was developed jointly with Wabco, Hanover, a subsidiary of the American Westinghouse group, which will produce all the electronic components.

Reliability has been the potential Achilles heel of complicated anti-skid devices subjected to the extreme conditions encountered by hauliers. Mercedes admits that ABS is complicated, but insists that it is being manufactured to more testing standards than those used in the aircraft industry.

Some British insurance companies already reduce premiums by up to 15 per cent for trucks fitted with approved anti-skid systems. Mercedes has opened negotiations with engineering experts serving the German insurance market, which may lead to minimum guarantee discounts.

One problem is that an articulated tractor may pull as many as six different trailers in a week. Until they are all fitted with anti-skid systems, a driver could, in the words of one operator, "forget for one second which trailer was behind and sideswipe everything on all three lanes of a motorway".

Mercedes is fitting its trucks with a red warning light which illuminates immediately a "bare" trailer is coupled in an attempt to reduce this risk.

Treasury Secretary outlines strong economic policies

White House 'taking a scalpel' to all areas of public spending

From Frank Vogl
United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Jan 29

Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury, asserted today that policies were being formulated to strengthen the economy so that the United States could again be "the engine that drives up international economic growth".

Mr Regan predicted that United States interest rates would move downwards soon. He said that the Treasury had no plans to resume gold sales, stressing that this "is a free market administration" which will firmly oppose all forms of trade protectionism.

In a wide ranging discussion the Treasury Secretary outlined with foreign correspondents, the new administration's domestic and foreign economic policies, disclosing details of tax cutting and public spending proposals. Mr Regan has met more than 10 times in the last 15 days with President Reagan to discuss ways of reducing public spending.

Mr Regan said that much more generous depreciation allowances would be announced for businesses when the new economic programme was released by the President on February 17 or 18. Income taxes would be reduced sharply in a multi-year tax plan. The top rate of individual income tax may be cut to 63 per cent from 70 per cent, and over three years it is to be brought down to 50 per cent.

Such moves, the Secretary stressed, would automatically cut capital gains taxes, so that the present 28 per cent rate would be down to 20 per cent over three years. These cuts and the other tax cuts would lead to much higher savings and investment and so stimulate productivity, Mr Regan said.

The tax cuts would be so designed that the richest Americans received the largest tax reductions, he said. He saw nothing wrong with this, and said this approach would produce the largest gain in savings.

The tax cuts might not be paid out before the late summer and the question was still open as to whether or not they should be made retrospective to the beginning of this year.

Mr Regan said the Administration was "taking a scalpel" to all sectors of public spending. Welfare programmes would be cut and so too would foreign aid. The Treasury has not yet decided where to make the foreign aid cuts, but the economic plan will provide the first clues as to where this Admiinstration stands in regard to the world banking group.

Mr Regan insisted that he and other leaders of the Administration were fervently in favour of free trade, and efforts would not be made to block Japanese car imports, for example. The previous Administration had decided to give further aid to Chrysler and his job was to see that the company met all the new loan conditions. He refused to speculate on what he would do if Chrysler failed to meet the conditions and faced bankruptcy.

On interest rates the Secretary suggested that a weakening economy would produce lower demand, resulting in lower rates. However, he said he supported a tight and stable money policy, with the Federal Reserve sticking to its targets. He intended to make major efforts to curb government credit programes.

Despite his enthusiasm for the free market, the Secretary said there were areas, such as East-West trade, where matters of politics were more important. He was working closely with the State Department on developing policies for East-West trade.

Mr Regan said it was premature to talk about the new administration's plans for the International Monetary and monetary reform. But policies on gold did not look as if they need to be changed for the moment, he added.

America's allies had insisted for years that the United States should first attack her problems of inflation and high energy consumption and this was what the new administration was doing. "We have time to come to grips with specifically international policies," he added.

The administration intended to honour the recent agreements with Iran if they were legal and constitutional, he said.

Dow raising price of chemicals by 30pc

Dow Europe is raising the price of most of its organic chemicals and plastic products by about 30 per cent over the next three months, and has said that further increases are planned from April.

The company, which is part of the world's sixth largest chemicals group, clearly hopes that its lead will be quickly followed by its competitors in western Europe and restore profitability among all producers.

Its initiative comes after prices slumped from the second quarter to 20 to 30 per cent below those at the start of 1980. Other attempts, towards the end of last year, to raise prices, proved generally unsuccessful.

Dow explained yesterday that while prices had slumped, costs had continued to climb. Although the intense pressure on the cost of feedstocks—primarily naphtha—abated in 1980, it now stood some 200 per cent higher than in 1978. Moreover, naphtha prices for the first quarter of 1981 rose by more than 15 per cent on the previous three months.

Dow has posted a new price for polystyrene (PS) of DM2.65 a tonne, against DM1.90 for the last quarter, and DM2.25 for the first quarter of 1980. Prices for low density polyethylene (LDPE) are set to rise to DM2.45 a tonne, against DM1.75 and DM2.15. These basic plastics are widely used for consumer goods, film and packaging.

Japan trade concessions 'insufficient'

Tokyo, Jan 29. — Japan announced today that it would export cars "prudently" to West Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and The Netherlands in a package of concessions designed to improve its trading relationship with the European Economic Community.

The concessions, capping two days of high-level talks here, were termed insufficient but "a step in the right direction" by Sir Roy Denman, the EEC director-general for external relations.

In a declaration of policy issued last November, the EEC declared that Japan must liberalize its markets if its $10,000m (about £4,132m) trade surplus with Europe was ever going to be reduced.

The concessions, announced by Mr Kiyoaki Kikuchi, Japan's deputy foreign minister and chief trade negotiator, pledged to: "moderate" car exports to West Germany and the three Benelux countries; curtail exports of colour television sets to West Germany; provide access for European companies to Japanese Government purchases in the $3,300m-a-year market in telecommunications equipment; and to introduce "substantial" tariff cuts on tobacco.

Japan also pledged to send import missions soon to EEC countries and to receive an EEC investment mission in Japan.

The meeting agreed to cooperate not only in trade but also in investment, research and development and industrial projects in third countries.

Sir Roy Denman: "A step in the right direction".

Sir Roy said that "a substantial gap" remained between Japan's concessions and EEC demands. Restrictions on Japanese colour television tubes as well as sets had been hoped for, along with increased Japanese buying of advanced machine-tools.

Sir Roy said he would report back to the EEC Commission next week, and to the Council of Ministers, Europe's official policy-making body, on February 17.

In preliminary talks on Wednesday the EEC delegation, one of the largest European trade missions to visit Japan to date, pointed out that Japanese exports to EEC countries last year leaped 30 per cent while EEC exports to Japan rose by only 3 per cent.

Sir Roy dismissed the notion that he came to Japan to negotiate hard-and-fast agreements and said the main purpose of his visit was to sound out Tokyo on the statement made by Council of Ministers, which concluded that protectionist sentiment in Europe would increase unless certain adjustments were made in the bilateral trading relationship.

Managers support plans for Engineering Council

By Derek Harris

Withdrawal of cooperation by the leading professional engineering bodies from the Government's proposed watchdog for engineering was strongly criticized yesterday by Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association (EMA). The TUC-affiliated EMA, which has a large membership of professional engineers, has backed the setting up of a powerful new body to succeed the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, whose plans to launch the new Engineering Council are in jeopardy because of the profession's action, "should not give in to the presidents of the institutions," Mr Lyons said. The stand taken by the presidents and the CEI was entirely unjustified

He added: "If Sir Keith goes ahead and the institutions try and sabotage the new body, they will not succeed. They would finally have discredited themselves in the eyes of their own members and of the country".

Mr Lyons hinted at further action by the EMA if Sir Keith launched the new body without the profession's backing. One avenue that might be explored by the EMA would be to persuade its professional engineer members to withdraw their membership of the institutions and the CEI which would hit the institutions' subscription income.

But the CEI still holds a strong card in being able to dispense titles such as Chartered Engineer (C Eng). If Sir Keith went ahead without the profession's backing, the Engineering Council would have to dispense a different title

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economic charges for energy

From Mr T. H. H. Skeet, MP for Bedford (Conservative)

Sir, As you correctly indicated in your editorial of January 8, charging for energy at economic rates has much to commend it, but care must be taken not to impair the competitiveness of British industry. It is the interrelation of these two elements that matters, and they specifically relate to the energy-intensive industries such as iron and steel, bricks, pottery, cement and chemicals, where energy costs may exceed well over 15 per cent of total costs.

It should be recollected, however, that so called economic rates may be distorted by altering the external financing limits of the energy supply industries and by maintaining taxes on petroleum products at rates not sustainable elsewhere in Western Europe, viz on fuel oil. It is self-evident that 8p per ton in France compares unfavourably with £3.55 in the Federal Republic of Germany; and £8 per ton in the United Kingdom. The totality of excise duties on hydrocarbons, vehicle excise duty, petroleum revenue tax, royalties and corporation tax reached in 1979-80 £8.1 billion.

Must the tax received from fuel oil be reimposed upon the petroleum industry and its customers which are already taking a disproportionate load? Further, if the levy in prospect for the British Gas Corporation was applied not in topping up the Consolidated Fund, but in allowing the industry to make discounts for large industrial users much along the lines of European practice, many of the arguments would be obviated.

Further, the pricing of natural gas in the United Kingdom is computed from a different base in the several countries of the EEC. Approximating the price of gas to gas oil which currently figures at 40.80p per therm would work out rather differently if fuel oil (the EEC base) at 27.80p per therm was employed. The price of petroleum products differs throughout Europe due in part to the proximity of the Rotterdam spot market and consequent reductions of distribution costs.

While Mr Lamont indicated that the British Gas Corporation was moderating its policy in relating gas prices to the equivalent oil product, viz about 75 per cent of the gas oil price for renewed contracts, he made this caveat: that while on present plans he expected that policy to continue, the gap would gradually narrow over a period of years.

The United Kingdom must take seriously the position of the energy-intensive industries. Expensive coal makes dear electricity by any economic standards and this has implications for the ailing steel industry. Premature overexpansion of coal when its market has yet to materialize and the delay in putting into operation a vigorous nuclear power programme can only serve to emphasize the astuteness of the French who, added to a large hydro electric investment, are pressing urgently ahead with massive installations of nuclear power, including the fast reactor. If Britain's oil, gas and coal reserves were the property of the French and West Germans I have no doubt the course they would have taken.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR SKEET,
House of Commons,
London, SW1.

Key to reducing costs

From Professor H. J. Pick

Sir, The British Institute of Management and the Henley Management College are to be commended on taking a new initiative in a most important area of company operation—the purchasing of materials and components (Patricia Tisdall's article, January 26). The cost of materials and components, as the article points out, commonly accounts for 30 per cent to 60 per cent of product costs. Purchasing procedures need indeed to be given considerable weight, as does the whole field of materials management.

May I, however, draw attention to the fact that purchasing and materials management in the administrative sense cannot, on their own, achieve the full potential for cost reduction and profit improvement inherent in the effective use of materials. In companies making engineering products purchasing departments can only minimize costs within the context of the technical specification laid down by engineering. A change in the specification of a material can sometimes lead to far greater cost reduction than any amount of "shopping around".

There is often equal scope for cost reduction through improved materials utilization: 50 per cent or more of the materials purchased by firms are commonly reduced to waste by inherently wasteful processes such as machining and pressing. Improvements in design and changes in manufacturing methods can lead to large reductions in material requirements.

It is the "engineering dimension", to use the Finniston report's terminology, which holds the key to cost effectiveness in this area.

Purchasing and materials management are indeed vitally important. But it is at least equally important to ensure that design and production are fully involved in the processes of cost minimization.

The Institute of Management and the Henley Management College will be aware of the above points. The purpose of this letter is to bring them to the notice of your readers.

H. J. PICK,
Professor of Materials Technology,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
The University of Aston,
Birmingham, B4 7ET.

Styles of leadership

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, Watching the antics of our leading politicians during recent years it has been tempting to consider the country being run by some of our top businessmen. Such solid and able men would get on with the running of our economy without the distractions of the adversary style of our parliamentary system and without preoccupations with puerile squabbles between "wets" and "arids".

Reading your reports (January 21) on the manoeuvring amongst the directors of the House of Fraser prompts the realization that we enjoy better fortune with our political masters than we thought. One director bets that he will unseat the chairman by the end of the year despite two overwhelming defeats on the issue in seven months. A million pounds of the shareholders' money has already been spent on the affair. How such a board can carry on the direction of what seems a successful company must be beyond most of us, especially the majority of the shareholders and the employees.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON,
Casa La Lloma,
Barranquet 5,
Altea,
Alicante,
Spain.

Taking trees seriously

From Mr Norman Jenkins

Sir, If hedgerow trees are to be taken seriously (January 15) then in addition to planting trees for energy (January 7 and January 9) why not collect them almost ready for use—in town. Not a new idea, it is proven practice.

There is a very large industry devoted to planting timber for paper that eventually gets buried as waste, only a part being recycled. There are several specially built incinerator plants producing both electricity and hot water in the United Kingdom, many more elsewhere; there is a new British process producing pellets of waste paper, cellulose from trees, that can be used in normal boilers. Brighton power station has been using a proportion in its fuel for some time, its thermal value approximating to half that of coal for a third of the price.

I have no commercial interest in this or any other related process — directly comparable with burning logs as fuel. The economies are becoming more and more favourable, the importance in energy strategy less and less, as more spectacular forms of spending money gain favour. How could there be any better way of *investing* North Sea profits, reducing the overall energy bill? Local authorities cannot find the money, some just do not want to know. Energy is not their concern; the direction of energy strategy of which this is an important part is, horrifyingly, no one's concern.

Yours very truly,
NORMAN JENKINS,
Whitehill,
Ewshot,
Farnham,
Surrey, GU10 5BS.
January 16.

Investment of pension funds

From Mr D. A. Kitchiner

Sir, I am sure most people would agree that trade unions should fight to get pension funds to invest in industry. A start could be made by the three big nationalized firms, i.e., British Rail, British Steel and the Coal Board, to invest most of their pension funds in their own industry, along with the taxpayer. I am sure that the TUC would not want the pension fund to have preferential treatment over the taxpayer and would invest with equal risk.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. KITCHINER,
The Grange,
Houghton Conquest,
Bedford.
January 19.

Blues Brothers cost

From Mr John Landis

Sir, Ivor Davis's article "Shadows on the silver screen" (January 9) has just been brought to my attention. I would like to correct the errors regarding myself.

The Blues Brothers did not cost $35m. It cost $27m, which I would think is quite enough thank you. It is now in profit, which is certainly not the impression given by Mr Davis's facile and trendy coverage of the film industry. To make points journalists often tend to repeat other journalists' inaccuracies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LANDIS,
Lycanthrope Films Limited,
29, St James's Street,
London, SW1 1HB.
January 15.

Insurance and nuclear safety

From Sir Kelvin Spencer

Sir, We are continually being assured that nuclear energy is quite safe. So isn't it time that car insurance policies omitted the clause that exempts insurers from "all legal liability of whatsoever nature" from ionising radiation? Policies contained no such clause before nuclear power stations came on the scene.

Yours faithfully,
KELVIN SPENCER,
Wootans,
Branscombe
Seaton,
Devon, EX12 3DN.
January 22.

Airmail rate increases

From Mr H. G. Conway

Sir, I see that the airmail postage rates have risen today (January 26) from a basic 14p to 20p, a rise of almost 43 per cent compared with 33 per cent for surface post overseas or about 17 per cent inland. One wonders how the Post Office can justify such a high rise.

Yours faithfully,
H. G. CONWAY,
33 Sussex Square,
Hyde Park,
London, W2.
January 26.

Nuclear shelters

From Dr R. C. W. Cox

Sir, Many of your readers who have investments, however modest, in one or more building societies will have been interested in your report (January 23) that the Woolwich Building Society is prepared to grant mortgages for nuclear shelters.

If the threat of nuclear war diminishes, these buildings will lose their value and so be unacceptable security in the event of the default of the mortgage. If the threat of nuclear war increases, no insurance company will be prepared to cover the risk to such buildings.

In any event, one must challenge the morality of a building society doing anything to encourage the idea that people could survive a nuclear war, thus diminishing our resolve that such a thing will never happen.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. W. COX,
69 Westfield Avenue,
Sanderstead,
Surrey.
January 25.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The banks and industry

Circumstances have been forcing the Bank of England to take an increasing interest in industrial affairs. While its industrial financial division has been in existence for many years, it is relatively recently that the Bank has taken an active part in industrial affairs. If the recession goes on it might soon have to encourage some major strategic decisions on British banking practice.

At present the division is run from head office and its task is one of monitoring and liaison between banks, and industry. It is backed by direct contacts between Bank governors and directors, usually non-executive, of major industrial companies. In regional offices the local agents play a similar role of contact men in their own areas.

Overall, the Bank is able to build a good picture on what goes on on the ground. There are times where it gets directly involved in troubled matters acting as an honest broker between the parties. So far it has refrained from encouraging any change in banking practice of short- and medium-term lending to industrial customers.

Can it afford to do so for much longer? In the German slump of the 20s the banks became deeply embroiled in industry. This has not always been a successful partnership, but at the time it was felt essential for the survival of German industry. With bankruptcies mounting and the recession continuing such strategy might even become part of discussions on the sort of problems which the banks and some of their industrial customers are now facing, though it would of course run quite counter to traditional prudential banking practice in this country.

Airfix

Receivership was inevitable

Airfix Industries has been teetering on the brink of disaster for so long that news of its receivership is no surprise.

Like Dunbee Combex Marx, and other less known toy manufacturers, it has fallen victim to the impact of the recession, a strong pound and high interest rates.

In Airfix's case it is clear that the financial package agreed with the banks last November has come unstuck. It involved the sale of two major subsidiaries and the reduction of borrowings at a given rate. Bank borrowings at the 1980 balance sheet stood at £23m and are around £15m thanks to the sales.

But the package also involved the production of monthly reports and projections. These showed that, although the group was profitable on trading grounds, it would have needed more cash than had been anticipated.

It is this that precipitated the crisis. Although the receivers hope to sell subsidiaries as going concerns any payment to shareholders looks a remote possibility.

A last ditch effort by Warburgs to save the company was ingenious but ran up against traditional British clearing banking practice. It involved a package of capitalizing about half of the debt, an interest forgiveness *element and rolling up interest* on medium-term loans.

The banks clearly felt that, after the troubles at Meccano, the sale of the profitable Crayonne and Declon Plastics companies was not enough to save Airfix. But even so the most important influence on their minds seems to have been a reluctance to convert overdrafts into equity, a practice widespread elsewhere—as the recent Massey Ferguson affair shows—but not accepted—or perhaps not yet—in Britain.

BPC

A wall of silence

Fears about the future of BPC, the beleaguered publishing and printing group were not allayed by the wall of silence surrounding events at the group yesterday. The shares slipped 1p to 16p, 9p below par value, so Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon, is nursing a paper loss of over £1m on the 29.5 per *cent stake* acquired in last July's dawn raid.

With BPC fighting labour battles on several fronts, the interim loss of £6.5m looks certain to rise to at least £10m for the full-year. Meanwhile, sale of the group's *Janes* division for £3m is of only marginal help given borrowings which at the last accounting date exceeded shareholders' funds by around £4m at over £40m, a large part of that owed to the National Westminster Bank.

The main hope on the trading front is the arrival at its Sun Printers subsidiary in July of the bulk of the *TV Times* printing contract estimated to be worth around £15m a year to BPC. But July is a long way off and in the meantime BPC seems to be running into severe competition on contracts from continental operators.

Mr Maxwell, meanwhile, has yet to make his intentions clear, although he has received clearance to make a full bid. Presumably the attraction is assets of around 80p a share at BPC which includes modern plant sufficient to satisfy a huge *increase in capacity when publishing climbs* out of recession.

Those assets support what otherwise looks like an awful trading situation at BPC and shareholders *now need to be told what the* exact position is as soon as possible.

● *Thomas Borthwick was tottering on the edge of the precipice at the end of last year after chalking up £10.5m of pretax losses and falling into technical default on a large part of its borrowings. However, it has managed to win the indulgence of its numerous bankers, reaching agreement on debt defaults which incurred it a "going concern" qualification in the last accounts. . .*

At a later stage Borthwick will set about restructuring its balance sheet on a more permanent basis.

The banks for their part have wanted commitments from Borthwick. No longer will Borthwick be taking such big positions in the meat market and stocks at the end of 1980 were £20m lower than a year previously with over half beef stocks already committed compared with 30 per cent.

The changes in strategy in meat reduce both the risks and the potential rewards and apart from its butchers shops which are doing well, the rest of Borthwick is likely to have a difficult year in 1980-81. Still Borthwick's future looks a bit clearer now and the shares firmed 1p to 30p yesterday.

Racal

Decca sees profits

It has taken Racal six months to bring Decca's losses under control, and it has done so convincingly. By the end of this year, then, Decca, with the aid of disposals to come, should be making a positive contribution before interest charges.

At the interim stage Racal profits are 13¼ per cent ahead at £26.5m on a 20 per cent sales increase. That in turn masks a loss of £5.2m from Decca (split as to £3m on capital goods and £2m on consumer products which should run off through the disposal of the television business soon) while on the positive side there is one-third improvement to *£34m in the profits from the rump of the* Racal business.

That was achieved on a 40 per cent sales increase which demonstrates that Racal is not immune from the general pressure on margins. Nevertheless, Racal emerges confidently on the back of splendid business, notably in its tactical radio equipment divisions and from its fairly recently acquired North American businesses, Vadic and Milgo. These data transmission operations now contribute around 25 per cent of total sales and margins are coming into line with traditional Racal standards.

Meanwhile, Racal has raised the interim dividend by just over 9 per cent to 1.64p a share gross which augers well for the year, although Racal at 312p still yields around 2 per cent. So the market is still looking for growth. Racal itself forecasts higher profits this year and, despite some pressure on financing new business, partly because of a reluctance by customers to put up large prepayments, it has the balance sheet capacity to cope.

Gearing is now around 75 per cent, and due to come down by the year-end if only because of the £25m likely from the sale of the television business and Decca House.

Japanese plans for a car manufacturing plant in Britain could create 4,500 jobs

When Datsun drives in . . .

In a brief speech which attracted little attention at the time Mr Yuzo Hatano, a senior Japanese diplomat in London, said earlier this month: "In the area of industrial cooperation and exchange there is a need for more mutual investment by Britain and Japan."

What the rest of us now know (and what Mr Hatano must have been aware of for some months) is that Japan's second largest motor manufacturer (and biggest exporter to Britain) is planning a huge new greenfield investment in the United Kingdom. It should not only create valuable new jobs at a time of steeply rising unemployment but also do something for trade relations between the two countries.

Actively encouraged, it seems, by the British Government which has been worried about the impact of unemployment, Nissan Datsun plans to establish a manufacturing plant costing an estimated £300m on an 800-acre site. It will employ about 4,500 workers and produce about 200,000 vehicles a year by 1986.

This big investment is clearly part of a larger European marketing strategy.

That the plan should have been made known within three days of the announcement by Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, of nearly £1,000m worth of further money to finance British Leyland's recovery programme over the next two years is, to say the least, unfortunate.

But clearly ministers calculate that the attraction of such a significant inward investment, and the jobs which Nissan will provide, will more than compensate for expressions of concern that a Japanese Trojan horse is moving in, which will threaten the whole future of the United Kingdom based motor industry.

The venture will attract substantial Government financial assistance under the *Industry* Act, just as Ford's new engine plant at Bridgend in South Wales did three years ago.

The Nissan project will con*solidate Britain's position* as a favoured location for Japanese investment in Europe. At the beginning of this year total investment by Japanese companies in the United Kingdom was estimated to be £844m, representing a large slice of the Japanese stake in Europe.

Over the past few years Tokyo has been one of the favourite destinations of British ministers and civil servants in the search for Japanese companies willing to commit funds *for investment here. They have* not been disappointed. The generous financial incentives available to companies investing in the so called assisted areas has attracted a steady trickle of blue chip Japanese companies to Britain—Sony, Matsushita, Toshiba, the bearings company NSK, and Nippon Electric to name but a few. But the Nissan venture will dwarf everything that has gone before.

It is equally clear that the company appears to be developing an overall strategy for Europe against the background of the growing tension between the European Community and Japan over trade.

Nissan's vehicle exports (cars, trucks and buses) to Europe last year are estimated to have totalled 336,000—an increase of nearly 17 per cent on the previous year's level which was itself 41 per cent above the 1978 figure. Total Nissan exports of vehicles to all markets last year reached an estimated 1,463,000, up by 29 per cent on the 1979 figure.

This year the company plans to increase its overseas shipments by only 1 per cent—reflecting perhaps the worries of the hard-pressed European companies and growing protectionist pressures in Europe and the United States. It will be those worries which will be explored next week in talks between the Japanese and European manufacturers in Lisbon.

In the frictions which have characterized trade relations for the past six years, Nissan has been among the more sensitive of Japanese companies. For that reason it was anxious that the negotiations over its United Kingdom venture should be conducted as far as possible in the open.

It appears that the United *Kingdom was the first choice* for what will be the largest single investment by any Japanese company in Europe.

Talks have been taking place for almost a year. Nissan appears to have been less influenced by the financial inducements available than by other attractions.

Datsun UK, the British company which markets Nissan cars, has managed to establish a comprehensive dealer network and Nissan executives have been impressed by Britain's highly productive and successful components industry. There is even a possibility that some of the components may be sub-contracted to BL. Another attraction was that English is Japan's traditional second language.

Traditional engineering skills and fairly low labour costs compared with those in other European centres must also have *weighed heavily.*

Nissan executives privately admit to admiration for British managerial and technical skills (although the cars will be *designed in Japan) and* are aware that their own corporate management is already stretched because of expanding overseas interests in Mexico, Australia and the United States.

The Japanese company's initial thinking about the United Kingdom operation envisages a production start-up, on two tracks, by the end of 1984, covering six basic front-wheel drive models with as yet undecided engine variants. The United Kingdom and conti*nental content will amount to* 60 per cent in value terms.

This proportion would include the purchase of standard parts and possibly assembly of engines, transmissions, axles and steering units.

The cars will be welded, painted and finally assembled at the new plant. Production will build up to a planned 200,000 units a year by 1986, when it is envisaged that the local content will be 80 per cent and will then include body panels and production of the "powertrain" (transmission, gearbox and engine).

The component business should help to safeguard an estimated 30,000 jobs in that sector of the industry and provisional planning envisages a substantial re-export of components, to Japan as well as other countries.

The feasibility studies into the venture will start immediately and should be completed in four months, but possible locations have been narrowed down to four sites—South Wales, Humberside, the North-west and the north east coast.

Whatever fears may be expressed in Britain and the rest of the EEC about the longer term implications of the proposed venture, both ministers and Nissan itself are clearly confident that the project will play an important role in cementing relations between the two countries and in the short-term will provide a much needed fillip to a large section of manufacturing industry.

Peter Hill and Edward Townsend

NISSAN'S WORLD MARKET

(Number of vehicles) *

EXPORTS BY AREA	
North America	655,000
Europe	336,000
Middle East	157,000
Africa	95,000
Southeast Asia	92,000
Central & S America	82,000
Oceania	46,000

Source: Nissan Motor Co Ltd

EXPORTS BY TYPE *

	1979	% change	1980 (estimate)	% change
CARS	836,676	+13.1	1,054,000	+26.0
TRUCKS	289,521	–10.7	392,000	+35.4
BUSES	7,992	+31.3	17,000	+122.7
Total	1,134,191	+6.0	1,463,000	+29.0

* Excludes knock-down kits

Overseas sales networks by area

Area	No. of Distributors	No. of Dealers
N America	5	1,284
S E Asia	44	257
Oceania	7	414
Europe	18	2,600
Middle East	20	137
Africa	43	348
Central & S America	45	499
Total	182	5,539

Technology

Prince Albert would have approved

There is a lot more to the Finniston Report on the engineering profession, published twelve months ago, than the proposal for a statutory engineering authority or council. Sir Monty and his committee know this, but in the world at large this "lot more" has been completely submerged in the deluge of controversy that has descended on to the subject of the authority.

The first item in the Finniston Committee's summary of its 80 recommendations says this, for example: "The regeneration of United Kingdom manufacturing competitiveness must be given overriding priority in national policies, with the emphasis on developing market-oriented engineering excellence in the products made by British industry and in the production of them".

There is another phrase for "market-oriented engineering excellence" in products and production: it is good design.

The principles of good design are much discussed but little acted-on. One of the better discussions was the report *Product design*, which Mr Kenneth Corfield (now Sir Kenneth) wrote in 1979 for the National Economic Development Office.

"It is the designer's job", he noted, "to create competitive and salable goods in the least expensive and most efficient way. He has to optimize his use of available resources, the raw materials and components, the working and fixed capital, and the use of energy in the manufacture of the product as well as in its utilization.

"He has to make the best use of labour at all levels; and finally he has to design his product to minimize ecological problems of effluents, hazards, noise and even the cost of the eventual disposal of the product when it has fulfilled its useful life."

That is a demanding job specification. So what has happened since the words of wisdom from Sir Monty and Sir Kenneth? Their statements embrace both engineering design and in the references to market orientation and competitive salable goods, industrial or aesthetic design, too.

But industrial and engineering design have been an odd couple, coexisting uneasily in the past. Welded together effectively, they could work wonders for Britain's industrial economy.

One hopes that industry itself is beginning to get the message that an improvement in design contributes basically to improved performance in the marketplace. But for the longer-term future the hoped for heightened awareness must come from the educational system.

In South Kensington and Bedfordshire, it is beginning to happen. At the postgraduate level, the Royal College of Art, centre for advanced teaching in industrial design (among many other things), is mounting collaborative initiatives both with Imperial College of Science and Technology (a neighbour on the South Kensington academic/cultural campus) and with the Centre of Engineering Design at Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire.

A joint two-year course in "industrial design engineering" was launched recently by the two South Kensington colleges. In one of the two inaugural lectures on this occasion, Professor Frank Height of the School of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art traced the historical reasons for today's fragmented pattern in design education and practice.

"We have the separate professionalism within engineering manufacture as exemplified by the specializations and individual loyalties of the engineering institutions; the parallel educational streams of art, science and technology; and the emergence of new disciplines and philosophies pertaining to the general field of design.

"If to this we add the recognition that design covers an enormous spectrum of products from highly sophisticated high-performance equipment through a vast middle range of normal technology and utility to decorative products and even ephemera, and that each of these categories has a separate set of design criteria, priorities and values, the complex and divided nature of design education and practice becomes very apparent".

Design was essentially a process of synthesis, Professor Height said. Now it was time for design education and practice to begin to synthesize some of their own disparate elements. Through the joint course with the Mechanical Engineering Department of Imperial College the aim was not to produce Leonardos or Brunels — the scale of technology today was too great for that — but to produce well-informed engineers able to deal with a wide range of design factors, from technical and manufacturing feasibility to the aesthetics of industrial design.

Meanwhile, at Cranfield, the Centre of Engineering Design, under Mr David Farrar, has become a focus of interdisciplinary design studies. A new "core course" in engineering design is being taught to 80 postgraduate students from the specialist departments of Cranfield's faculty of engineering, both by Cranfield staff and by visiting lecturers from the RCA and elsewhere.

"We have identified those things which are fundamental to the innovative design of successful engineering products, and these form the basis of the course", Mr Farrar says.

"The scope of the course is unique. Eighty postgraduates a year will certainly make an impact on design in industry and that will show itself in new and better products".

Two fellowships in computer-aided design, one at the RCA and one at Cranfield, have been endowed by the Royal Commission for the exhibition of 1851 (still in being as a body which promotes science and art and their application in industry, as originally intended by Prince Albert). Other links between the College and other faculties at Cranfield, including Cranfield School of Management, have also been forged.

These ad hoc moves to synthesize the separate elements of design education may lead to a more permanent arrangement. Professor Height is now exploring the idea of a National Institute of Design, probably in the form of a federation of existing organizations such as the RCA, Imperial College and Cranfield.

"It would provide a centre for the integrated study of the continuum of supporting functions which must precede and follow the design act", he says. "It would not only be a teaching and research institute, but also a powerful ally of government and industry in furthering British design at the level of intensity and coordination needed to compete today."

For a headquarters, where better than South Kensington? Prince Albert would have approved.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Datsun's Botnar ● On your marks

One intriguing aspect of the plan by Nissan of Japan to build a United Kingdom car assembly plant here is the role that must have been played in discussions with Whitehall by Datsun UK, the British-owned sales company.

Although Nissan's talks with the Government have been one of the best kept secrets of the past year, Datsun's involvement has been even more closely veiled.

This is not surprising, however, given the nature of Datsun's mysterious chairman, Octav Botnar, who has studiously avoided public exposure since he formed the company in 1970

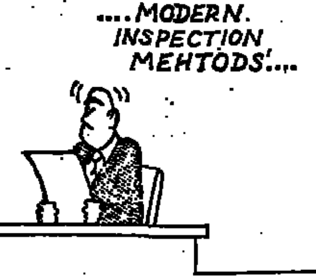
He is known to be wealthy and a sincere philanthropist, having established, for example, a school for handicapped children at Worthing, where the Datsun headquarters are. But few people know how old he is (possibly around 60) or where he was born, although there has been speculation about East Europe, or Austria. He has homes in London, Switzerland and Spain but the precise location is a matter for speculation. His private life and how much he earns are nobody's business but his, he says.

His inscrutability, however, has clearly endeared him to the taciturn Japanese, who have also been impressed by his entrepreneurial skills in building up his company to become by far the leading importer of their cars.

What behind-the-scenes moves he has been making to assist Nissan's European expansionism possibly are unknown even to Datsun UK directors, but, if the truth were *revealed, Botnar's* activities probably have been crucial.







● I wonder if Lord Soames and Sir Neville Leigh were fans of ITMA, the wartime radio comedy show?

The war and ITMA are long over, *but there is another* ITMA. It is still going strong and, what is more, Lord Soames and Sir Neville might find it worth while tuning in to it.

Lord Soames is the Lord President and Sir Neville is Clerk of the Privy Council, the body responsible for the grant of royal charters. ITMA, on the other hand, is the Institute of Trade Mark Agents, whose members advise companies on the selection and protection of an increasingly valuable—and threatened—commercial property.

The association was established before the war by patent agents who saw trade marks, being eternal, as likely to rival in importance patents, which—like the agents themselves—one day expire.

ITMA now admits agents to membership (MITMA) through stiff exams, so stiff indeed that last year nobody at all passed. There are about 120 exam-qualified members, but there are twice as many members able to lay claim to the initials without taking the exams.

This they may do after making a Statutory Declaration that they are frightfully good at trade marks, thanks to an anomaly under which it was the patent and not the trade mark agents who took out the charter before the war and so framed the ITMA articles of association.

Some trade mark agents now say that even big public companies are at risk because some people, however well qualified in patents, can on their own say-so set up as trade mark specialists, too.

One camp among the trade mark agents want a merger with the patents people; others say that this would merely institutionalize the patent agents' grip over trade marks. They are considering a breakaway group which would seek a charter of its own making membership contingent upon examination and regulating entry

Meanwhile, the courts are full of expensive trade mark disputes. Many firms settle out of court, perhaps on good advice, perhaps not. And now over to Lord Soames and Sir Neville....

● Brighton, Southend and Clacton may be relieved to hear that this year a continental competitor intends to make a takeover bid for the mods, rockers and Hell's Angels trade.

Alan Branch, Sealink UK's short crossings manager, announced yesterday that the ferry company was trying to channel all motorcycle traffic to the Continent via Dunkirk.

"We think there is a lot of traffic there which has never been properly catered for", he says.

The French vessels which operate the route have been equipped with new bulkhead fittings to accommodate large *numbers of motor bikes on the* crossing.

Dunkirk, which has of course withstood worse invasions, should be able to cope with anything the British grease and leather gangs can offer. At yesterday's promotional reception in the Café Royal the party from the local chamber of commerce proudly showed a short film of their annual carnival, in the course of which the stolid citizenry daub their faces with outrageously punkish designs and rampage through the streets.

● David Coltman, son-in-law of William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has left British Airways, I hear, to take a job with the state corporation's deadly rival, British Caledonian.

Coltman, formerly BA's general manager, market development, is to become deputy to BCal marketing director Gordon Davidson, who himself left British Airways a year ago.

One British Airways mole describes this as "the inevitable brain drain which will leave us a banana republic airline," but my information is that there is no undue switch of senior people to the expansion-minded private sector British Caledonian.

Davidson, by the way, had been BA's Concorde director (not a board appointment) and went over to BCal when that company was considering using Concorde on the North Atlantic.

That idea went out of the window when fuel prices began to shoot up still further, but Davidson was not only asked to stay on at BCal but at the beginning of this year was taken on to the board.

Coltman was previously in charge of the marketing side of British Airways cargo.

Happy is the journalist who never has to eat his or her words. Happy still is the lady from a Canadian magazine who, when arrested by the Mozambique police in a border mix-up, gulped down her notes and her plastic press card to conceal her calling. She could have been carrying a portable typewriter.

Ross Davies

Stock markets

Gilts make progress despite MLR disappointment

An air of expectancy hung over the market yesterday as investors bought stock in the hope of a cut in the minimum lending rate around lunchtime.

After a quiet start, equities rallied on the back of the renewed strength in gilts where the new tap Exchequer 12 per cent 1985 made its debut. Dealers reported strong support by short-term operators banking on a cut in MLR, which was soon followed by genuine investment buying. As a result the Government Broker was able to activate the new tap at £40¼. It closed at £40 7/16 in the wake of some steady demand.

Although there was not cut in MLR, prices in gilts suffered only a slight hiccup and still made up the lost ground after hours. In longs, prices rallied at the close to finish on a high note £¾ up, while in shorts gains ranged from £¼ to £⅜.

Equities, disappointed by the decision to leave interest rates unchanged, gained some comfort from the full-year figures from Racal. Those were merely in line with expectations, but, buyers seemed delighted with the performance and the price rallied to 320p before profit-taking saw it close at 312p, a net rise of 7p.

Electricals gained support after the figures but engineering shares saw further offerings over continued rumours that a leading group had its back to the wall. Gold shares also took another drubbing as the bullion price sank $34 to $490.50 and the gold shares index closed at 281.4, a fall of 25.2.

Jobbers ran into steady profit taking after hours. This was reflected in the FT Index, which closed 3.7 higher at 463.1 having been 4.0 higher at 2 pm.

Leading industrials experienced only minimal support and presented a mixed picture at the close. ICI improved 4p to 290p. **Beechams** rose 1p to 170p, **Glaxo** 4p to 260p, **Hawker Siddeley** 6p to 250p and **Dunlop** 1p to 61p. **Blue Circle** fell 2p to 346p, **Lucas Ind** 3p to 167p and **Tate & Lyle** 2p to 15p.

Shares of **Airfix** were suspended at 8p as the group announced that it had called in the receiver and this immediately sent a shiver through the rest of the toy market. **Mottoy** eased 1p to 18p and **J. W. Spear** 3p to 117p. Only **Lesney** held its ground, closing unchanged at 18p.

On the bid front shares of **House of Fraser** rose 2p to 143p in the wake of the 150p a share bid from Lonrho for the remaining 70.5 per cent it does not hold. **Lonrho** closed 2p lighter at 95p. **Eva Industries** rose 4p to 41p on the £3.74m bid from Anglo-Indonesian while **Negretti & Zambra** eased 1p to 30p after the rescue operation carried out by Western cientific Instruments. **Greenbank Investments** made further progress on the approach from Malton Finance, rising 9p to 160p, and **Hawthorn, Leslie** advanced 2p to 138p on its rejection of the terms from Starwest Investments.

Speculative attention lifted **I. Barget** 13p to 132p along with **Lincroft Kilgour**, 8p to 28p, while in foods **Hillards** added 5p to 190p. **Associated Dairies** slip 2p to 176p reflecting the recent £45m cash call to shareholders. **Robertson Foods** rose 4p to 144p in the wake of its rejection of the bid from **Avana**, 2p better at 195p, and **Thomas Borthwick** firmed 1p to 30p after the annual meeting.

Denbyware was 2p higher at 77p, after a satisfactory statement with **Garford Lilley** up 1p to 19p. **Macarthy's Pharmaceutical** up 8p to 136p, **Bullough** 1p higher at 149p and **Hill & Smith** 3p ahead at 59p. **F. Pratt** was unchanged at 53p.

Allied Textiles rose 9p to 125p, with figures way above expectations, and **Textured Jersey** hardened 3p to 67p for a similar reason while recovery hopes saw **Robert Kitchen Taylor** 15p stronger at 125p. In properties **Lynton** leapt 20p to 238p after interim figures and the decision to acquire Summerbridge Properties.

It has been a busy time for shares of Pritchard Services, which rose to a new high of 130p earlier this week. However, a large seller of over 1 million shares at 130p has seen the price retreat to 125p where they held steady yesterday. But speculation that Provincial had picked the stake remained unconfirmed yesterday with Mr Michael Ashcroft of Provincial, unavailable for comment.

But a disappointing performance left **A. J. Worthington** 1p lower at 30p with the cut in the final payment leaving **Lonsdale Universal** 8p lighter at 37p.

Spurred on by interim figures from Racal, electricals encountered strong support but profit-taking left most prices below their best at the close. **GEC** rose 5p to 603p, **Plessey** 5p to 281p and **STC** 3p to 437p, with speculative attention responsible for 13p rise a **Muirhead** at 101p, after 110p. Full-year profits from **Evode Group** were well received and the shares finished 3p dearer at 51p.

Engineering saw further weakness amid fears of a possible liquidation with **Turner & Newall** 2p off at 70p, **Ransome Hoffman & Pollard** 4½p easier at 71½p and **John Brown**, reporting today, unchanged at 60p. **Duport**, after further difficulties, fell 5½ to 8p. Only **GKN**, up 3p at 137p, showed any recovery. Shares of **Arthur Holden** dipped 4p to 86p as **Metal Box**, up 8p at 164p, placed its remaining 17.6 per cent.

The sharp fall in the bullion price and heavy selling from the Continent sparked further selling of gold shares in London. **Anglo American Gold** tumbled £3 to £34, **West Driefontein** £1 to £27, **Western Deep** £2½ to £19¼, **FS Geduld** £1⅞ to £18 and **Southvaal** £1 to £11½. At the cheaper end, **Kinross** plunged 31p to 525p, **UC Investments** 30p to 380p, **SA Land** 30p to 193p, **Middle Wits** 30p to 635p and **Vlakfontein** 20p to 200p. In mining finance **Cons Gold** fell 20p to 448p.

Equity turnover on January 28 was £111.839m (14,868 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Racal, GEC, Shell, STC, Beecham, Royal Dutch, GKN, ICI, Marks and Spencer, Plessey, Thorn EMI, Britannia Arrow, Allied Breweries, RTZ and GUS.

Traditional options were very quiet with a call in Turner and Newall at 7½p and puts in National Westminster at 18p and Arthur Bell at 12p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Allied Textile (F)	29.6(30.6)	3.1(3.25)	21.7(25.5)	4.4(4.4)	4/4	7.2(7.2
Asprey (I)	6.16(5.39)	0.78(0.73)	131(108)	75(12)	29/1	—(—)
Bullough (F)	49.0(47.1)	4.2(5.4)	28.1(43.3)	6.5(6.5)	25/3	10.7(10.7)
Denbyware (I)	4.78(4.82)	0.048* (0.064)	0.6*(0.6*)	1.0(2.11)	—	—(4.11)
Edin Amer Assts (F)	—(—)	0.57(0.52)	0.87(0.79)	0.8(0.7)	16/4	0.8(0.7)
Evode (F)	32.4(29.04)	2.07(1.61)	10.33(8.14)	1.19(0.93)	—	1.68(1.41)
Garford-Lilley (I)	2.98(2.87)	0.29(0.24)	2.14(1.75)	0.2(0.2)	18/3	—(1.15)
Hill & Smith (F)	18.4(16.07)	1.13(0.88)	12.72(12.93)	2.5(2.2†)	30/3	3.5(3.18†)
R. K. Taylor (F)	15.4(17.02)	0.63(1.9)	12.5(34.7)	7(7)	31/3	10(10)
Lonsdale Univ (F)	39.9(36.8)	0.82(1.45)	6.0(11.9)	—(3.5)	—	1.85(5.17)
Lynton Hldgs (I)	—(—)	0.59(0.53)	2.5(2.64)	1.5(1.2)	—	—(3.1)
Macarthys Phar (I)	94.9(75)	2.26(1.6)	12.0(6.6)	2.0(2.0)	6/4	—(4.7)
Negretti & Z. (I)	5.1(5.3)	0.45*(0.4*)	15.5*(25.2*)	—(—)	—	—(1.92)
Prt & Sn Nws (I) (‡)	16.2(14.07)	2.35(3.12)	9.6(12.7)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Racal (I)	240(199)	26.5(23.4)	—(—)	1.15(1.05)	5/2	—(4.12)
Tanjong Tin (F)	—(—)	0.54(0.23)	—(—)	1.5(—)	23/3	—(—)
Textured Jersey (I)	5.78(4.62)	0.41(0.34)	—(—)	1.75(1.5)	1/4	—(4.5)
A. J. Worthngtn (I)	1.29(1.06)	0.017(0.07)	0.86(2.26)	0.4(0.4)	31/3	—(0.99)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *=Loss; †=Adjusted for scrip issue; ‡=Figures are for first 39 weeks.

Higher costs may offset 41 pc rise at Macarthys

By Catherine Gunn

Macarthys Pharmaceuticals had a better half year to October 31 thanks to higher demand for prescription medicines and a recovery at its small pharmaceutical manufacturing division.

The shares gained 8p to 136p on news that pretax profits had risen 41 per cent to £2.27m on sales of £95m against £75m. With general practitioners prescribing larger quantites of drugs per visit, and much higher retail drug prices, turnover in pharmaceutical distribution rose 29 per cent to £67m. Since the division's overheads are fixed most of the benefits filtered straight into trading profits, which rose 56 per cent to £2m.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing recovered from a £65,000 loss to a £110,000 profit but the surgical equipment side has been hit by hospital spending cuts. The veterinary side's profits slipped by a fifth to £196,000. A recent reshuffle of that operation is expected to produce better results by the year-end. The slippage on the surgical instruments side was partly offset by the need for consumable products like sutures and needles, but the division's profits ended the half year 27 per cent down at £209,000.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.86p gross and the final will almost certainly be held, Mr R. Ritchie, chairman, said yesterday.

He said that the second half's profits were likely to be a little lower than in the first half because of rising overheads. The level of the final dividend will depend upon the extent of those increases and how far new stock relief requirements affect the group. Drug prices are now rising faster than the general price index, which is a reversal of the previous trend.

At the half year ovedrafts stood at £4.57m and interest costs rose by £150,000.

Briefly

Matthew Brown: Mr Patrick W. Townsend, chairman, said that although beer sales in the financial year to date were down on those of last year the directors *believe* the group was at least holding its *market share. Sales and profit* margins were under pressure but the board was confident of the long term prospects.

Associated Engineering: Speaking annual meeting, chairman Mr J. N. Ferbuson, said "there is little sign of any upturn and profits for first half will be marginal and any improvement will depend upon an increase in activity, both in the United Kingdom and world generally."

Tanjong Tin Dredging: Pretax profit for year to December 31, £536,000 (£232,000) including interest and dividends £169,000 (£86,500). First interium of 1.5p has been declared.

Bahco-Record: Agreement has been reached on a revised cash offer by Bahco Limited for Record Ridgway, being 42p cash for each Record ordinary share. Revised offer values Record at £4.7m and is an increase of 5p per share (13.5 per cent) on the original offer.

Denbyware: Group sales for half-year to September 27, 1980, £4.78m (£4.82m). Pretax loss of £48,000, compared with a profit of £64,000 last year. Interim dividend cut from 3.01p to 1.42p gross.

A. J. Worthington (Holdings): Turnover for half-year to September 30, 1980, £1.29m (£1.06m). Pretax profits dropped to £17,300, against £72,200. Interim payment unchanged.

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers: Turnover for 39 weeks to December 27, 1980. £16.24m (£14.07m). Pretax profits, £2.35m (£3.12m).

Edinburgh American Assets Trust: Gross income for 1980, £1.72m (£1.47m). Pretax profits, £572,000 (£522,000). Total gross dividend raised from 1p to 1.14p.

Textured Jersey: Turnover for half-year to October 31, 1980, £5.78m (£4.62m). Pretax profits, £411,000 (£343,000). Interim payment raised from 2.14p to 2.5p gross. Liquid position remains "excellent".

The Greenbank Trust: An announcement was made on Wednesday, January 28, that an agreed offer is to be made by Rowe Rudd & Co on behalf of Malton Financial Services for the 800,000 shares of Greenbank in issue. In this announcement it was estimated that the value of the offer on December 31, 1980, would have been 132p per share. Following this announcement, the share price of Greenbank has risen to a level at which the directors of Greenbank believe it to be above the estimated current value of the shares as they would be valued under the proposed offer. The directors of Greenbank announce that, in the light of this fact, they are considering selling all or a part of those shares in which they have a non-beneficial interest, but which are not irrevocably committed to the offer. The aggregate of these non-beneficial interests amounts to 142,649 shares, representing 17.8 per cent of the issued share capital. In the current circumstances, shareholders may wish, after consultig their professional advisers, to take a similar course of action.

Associate's token bid for Eva

By Our Financial Staff

Anglo-Indonesian Corporation *the tea and rubber group*, is making an offer worth £3.7m for its associate, engineering company Eva Industries, but does not really want to acquire all of the capital. Eva's chairman, Mr Trevor Astley, expects to make an announcement in response to the offer today.

What Anglo-Indonesian wants is a larger share of Eva's profits in return for the time it is prepared to put into furthering Eva's agricultural hand tool interests, Mr Michael Nightingale, chairman of Anglo, explained yesterday. Since Anglo already owns 27.3 per cent of Eva it had to go above the 30 per cent level that triggers a ful bid under Takeover Panel rules in order to achieve its objective. The bid itself is purely token and Anglo intends Eva to retain its separate listing.

Anglo decided to make the token bid after agreeing to buy 87,000 Eva shares from BAT Industries at 40p, the price now offered to all Eva shareholders.

Acting in concert with Anglo are some of Eva's institutional shareholders, Mr Nightingale and another Anglo director, Mr Selwyn Pryor, in respect of their own shareholdings in Eva. The concert party brings Anglo's aggregate interest to 37.6 per cent of Eva.

Payout passed as Lonsdale dives

Lonsdale Universal's profits were almost halved last year because of the impact of increased interest charges and the final dividend has been passed.

Pretax profits of the printing-to-office equipment group dropped by 43 per cent from £1.45m to £829,000 in the 12 months to September 30, 1980. Turnover rose by £3m to £39.9m. The interest charge was £1.3m against £949,000 and the borrowings fell from £4.8m to £4.1m.

The other main problem for the group was the printing industry dispute. This contributed to an 11 per cent fall in trading profits which were £2.14m. The figure would have been worse but for an excellent performance by the business forms unit, said Mr Norman Ramseyer, chairman.

Efforts to reduce borrowings met with mixed success. The sale of the department stores for £1m caused losses on book values and redundancy and other rundown payments contributed to the £2.2m extraordinary costs.

Olivetti proposes fourth rights issue since 1978

From John Earle

Rome

Olivetti, the electronics and office equipment company based at Ivrea in Piedmont, yesterday announced a capital raising operation, its fourth since 1978.

The existing capital of 208,740m lire (£88.8m) will be increased to 232,820m lire (£98.2m) through a rights issue of 24m preference savings shares of nominal 1,000 lire value. Since, however, they will be offered at 2,500 lire each the funds raised will amount to 60,200m (£25.6m).

At the same time in another rights issue, 120.4m ten-year convertible bonds of 1,000 lire are offered. They bear a 13 per cent coupon and are convertible after the third year.

Olivetti was quoted at 4,625 lire after the announcement, up 55 lire from Wednesday's close.

International

Phillips Petroleum

Net profits of Phillips Petroleum, the Oklahama-based oil company, rose to $1,070m (£446m) in 1980, from $891 the year before, the company said yesterday. Revenues rose by 41 per cent to $13,700m.

Mr William C. Douce, president and chief executive, said that higher world prices for petroleum liquids and natural gas, combined with increased production, were responsible for the earnings improvement.

Crude oil production in the United States was 120,000 barrels a day, down 1 per cent from 1979. Worldwide, crude oil production was 289,000 barrels a day, about the same as in 1979.

KLM improves

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' loss for the third quarter to December 31 fell to Fl3.4m (£623,000) from Fl11.9m a year earlier.

The operating result, after interest costs, showed a loss of Fl2.4m against Fl16.2m.

Record Xerox results

Xerox Corporation says it expects continued progress in 1981, after reporting record fourth quarter and full-year net profits yesterday.

Net profits for 1980 rose to $619.2m (£258m) from $553.1m in 1979 on revenues of $8,200m, against $6,990m.

In the fourth quarter it earned $142.2m, up from $127.8m, on revenues of $2,200m against $1,860m.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Evode up 28pc, but outlook is difficult

By Peter Wainwright

Evode Holdings, best known for adhesives, but *also* in sealants, building chemicals and do-it-yourself products, has still to justify in share price terms the rejection in 1979 of a Donald Macpherson bid of 61p a share.

Yesterday Evode's shares did rise 3p to 51p after raising sales by 11.8 per cent to £32.48m and pretax profits by 28.4 per cent to £2.07m in the year to September 27. The result was an increase in earnings a share of 26.9 per cent to 10.33p a share.

The group will do well to hold the line this year now that reorganization is completed and the recession continues. The full year's advance of 28 per cent contrasts with more than doubled profits at half time.

However, current cost profits *were £1.43m against £832,000*, giving the new dividend of 2.40p gross a share an inflation adjusted 3.8 times cover. Despite heavy capital spending, up a quarter last year, net bank borrowings were repaid. But the yield at 51p is only 4.8 per cent.

Apart from Macpherson there were nearly half a dozen other suitors for Evode and the former chairman, Mr Peter Wright, resigned because he *was convinced of the desirability* of a merger.

Western Scientific makes agreed bid for Negretti

By Margareta Pagano

Western Scientific Instruments, an investment holding company formed last May, yesterday made its first acquisition with an agreed bid for the lossmaking instrument group, Negretti & Zambra.

Western, created by the privately run finance house Thompson Clive Investments, values Negretti at £1.45m. The offer is 25p for each ordinary share, against a market price of 30p a share, 60p cash for each 9 per cent preference share and 50p cash for each 3.5 per cent preference share. The Negretti board, whose chairman is Mr Robert Ford, has recommended full acceptance and irrevocable commitments have been received for 45.77 per cent of the ordinary equity and 55.81 per cent of the convertible shares.

Negretti's largest shareholders, Industrial and Com*mercial Finance Corporation* and the National Enterprise Board, have accepted the offer. The institutional investors behind Western, which include Electra Investment Trust, the National Coal Board Pension Funds, Atlas Electric and General Trust and others, have agreed to subscribe £3.75m on the offer becoming unconditional. This will increase Western's shareholders' funds *to some £4.25m.*

Mr Ford said the bid was in the best interests of the shareholders in the light of Negritti's trading position, revealed yesterday. In the six months to September the group lost £454,900 against £408,000 last time, on sales down from £5.3m to £5.1m. The interim dividend has been passed. The *recession has severely affected* performances, particularly from Negretti Automation and Sepkarn, he added.

The initiative for Western originally came from Electra Investments, which approached Thompson Clive with the idea of setting up a new science and technology group to develop cross-marketing between Europe and the United States. If the offer goes through *Western is looking to dispose* of Negritti's interests outside instrumentation, to improve its gearing and develop industrial electronics and defence products.

Bullough retrenches as profits fall

By Rosemary Unsworth

Bullough, the engineering to contract furnishing group, saw profits fall by 22 per cent last year as the recession deepened and sterling's appreciation made its impact. Pretax profits went from £5.4m to £4.2m while turnover rose by £2m to £49m in the year to October 31.

The closure of the Druce group and the losses on investment of Midland Electro Plating and Bredon Hydraulics, which were sold, amounted to £555,000, *with £315,000 trading losses and* £151,000 in redundancy payments. This figure also includes provision for the expected costs *of closure of Newman Granger* (Engineering), which was announced after the year end.

With demand for agricultural machinery components slumping, Bullough has decided to transfer the remaining viable parts of the business, with £1m worth of orders, to other parts of the group. The closures so far have resulted in 400 redundancies.

Interest charges came to *£250,000, more than double last* year's figure.

Although Project Office Furniture increased its profits to a *record, a reduction* in sales has now been felt. *B & B Trailers has experienced the same market conditions as the rest of the caravan industry* where exports to Europe have slumped, with the strength of sterling. Electricals benefited from a defence order although mining motors and marine tool operations suffered.

The final dividend has been maintained at 9.35p gross, making an unchanged total of 16.35p gross.

Boost from interest, but Allied Textile dips

By Rosemary Umworth

Alied Textile Companies, the specialized worsted and uniform manufacturer, saw its profits eroded by 5 per cent last year as conditions in the home textile market remained difficult, although the group held steady during the second half.

Pretax profits went from £3.25m to £3.1m while turnover dipped by £1m to £29.6m in the year to September 30. But Allied benefited from high *interest rates, eanring £450,000* on £5.3m cash balances acquired as it ahas rationalized the group over the past six years.

Despite the strength of sterling exports improved by £1m to about £8m although Japan and West Germany, Allied's biggest European customer, are becoming dificult because of the comparative weakness of their currencies.

Mill closures and reorganization costs amounted to £480,000, compared with £373,000 the year before.

The final dividend has been maintained at 6.3p gross making 10.3p for the year and chief executive, Mr Russell Smith, pointed out that the group's earned interest now nearly paid the cost.

The share price raced up by 9p to 125p, after the announcement, where the yield is 8.2.

Recession still hurting Bass

At yesterday's annual meeting of Bass, the brewing giant which recently took over Coral Leisure, Mr Derek Palmar, the chairman, told shareholders that because of the recession, sales of beer, wines and spirits, soft drinks and hotel occupancy have all suffered in recent months. This is likely to continue and will inevitably affect *the outturn for the first six* months of the current year. However, there were some good signs—the slowing down in the rate of inflation should benefit Bass's sales eventually..

Litton's sale to Int Thomson

International Thomson Organisation has reached agreement in principle to buy the publishing operations of Litton Industries. The operations to be acquired include the medical economics division, Van Nostrand Reinhold, D. Van Nostrand, Delmar, American Book Co, McCormick Mathers and related United States and foreign subsidiaries.

The deal is subject to completion of documentation and to Government pre-acquisition notification requirements.

Lynton Holdings' expansion

Lynton Holdings, the property group, has bought Summerbridge Investments for 926,000 ordinary shares in Lynton, which is about 9.37 per cent of Lynton's enlarged capital. The value of the net assets acquired is £2.39m. Summerbridge's pretax profits reached £145,000 for the 10 months to October 31, 1980.

Meanwhile, Lynton's pretax surplus for the half-year to September 25 last rose from £531,000 to £595,000. The interim dividend is being raised from 1.71p to 2.14p gross and the board expects last year's total payment of 4.42p gross will be "at least" maintained.

Setback for R K Taylor

Pretax profits of Robert Kitchen Taylor, the textiles and property concern, tumbled from £1.9m to £638,000 in the year to September 30, 1980. Turnover slipped from £17.02m to £15.4m. Although earnings per share have dropped from 34.7p to 12.6p, the total gross dividend is *being maintained at 14.28p.*

The board explains that the difficult conditions in the textile industry have persisted and the second half-year did not live up to expectations. Two offshoots made sizable losses. Remedial action has been taken.

Outlook good for Asprey

Pretax profits of Asprey & *Co., the goldsmiths, silver*smiths and jewellers, were virtually unchanged at £784,000 in the half-year to Sept. 30, 1980, compared with £787,000 last time. However, earnings per ordinary share rose by 21 per cent to 131.75p. Turnover £6.16m.

was 14 per cent higher at

Mr John Asprey, the chairman, reports that had it not been for the costs of integrating and rationalising the Algernon Asprey Group, earnings could have shown a significant improvement. The outlok for the second half is encouraging.

Another scrip from Hill & Smith

Best-ever results and a scrip issue for the second year running are reported by Hill and *Smith, a West Midlands-based* group taking in steel stockholding, general steel fabrications and drop forgings.

In the year to Sept. 30, 1980, pretax profits rose from £880,000 to a record £1.13m—only the second time they have topped the £1m mark—on turnover up from £16.07m to £18.41m. The total gross dividend is being raised from 4.54p (adjusted for last year's scrip *issue*) to 5p a share. For the second year running, a one-for-ten scrip issue is being proposed. However, the board warns that profits for the first half of the current year will be reduced, with any significant improvement in the second half depending on an expected recovery in demand.

Holden shares placed with institutions

Arthur Holden and Sons' brokers, Sabin Bacon White and Company, have placed 1.25m shares, 17.65 per cent of the ordinary capital with various institutions. The shares were formerly held by Metal Box. This does not affect the close trading relationship between the two companies, a fact which is underlined by the retention of 658,000 shares, 9.3 per cent in Holden by Metal Box.

Business appointments

London Transport names three new executives

Mr Clive W. Hardie has been *named by London Transport as* director of mechanical engineering (railways), in succession to Mr Stanley F. Smith, who is to retire. Mr John T. Cope becomes a member of the rail board as personnel director (railways) in succession to Mr Hardie. Mr James A. Neale becomes group personnel director.

Dr John Shields has been named managing director of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories.

Captain John Wharrie has been made commodore of the BP Shipping fleet.

Mr Harry Cressman has become managing director of Heron Motor Group.

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director, cars, joins the board of BL Limited.

On the taking over by Mr R. A. Iles as chairman of Alexander Howden Insurance Brokers, the board has made Mr R. W. Larkin chief executive of the non-marine reinsurance division.

Mr Kevin Teal is the new export and marketing director of M. L. Shelley & Partners.

Mr D. Ross-Smith and Mr D. R. G. Wilkins have joined the board of McCorquodale Machine Systems.

Mr Maurice Townend has been elected as chairman of The Cable Television Association.

Mr Matthew Oakeshott has been made investment manager of the Courtaulds Limited Pensions Common Investment Fund.

Mr C. E. Black becomes investment managing director of Globe Investment Trust.

Dr Jeffrey V. Butcher and Mr Alan C. Martin have been made directors of Yorkshire Chemicals.

Mr Peter J. Galvin is now finance director of Price & Pierce (Holding Company). His post as company secretary and group chief accountant has been taken by Mr Andrew Rhys-Davies.

Mr Douglas Kramer becomes a non-executive director of Slough Estates.

Mr Richard Lucas and Mr John Uzielli have joined the board of Hogg Robinson *International* and Reinsurance. Mr Lucas has also been made managing director of Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Reinsurance & Non-Marine) and Mr Uzielli managing director of Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (*Marine*). Mr M. H. Jensen becomes director responsible for production for Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine).

Mr M. H. Fisher has been made *a director of Commercial Union* Assurance Company.

Mr Stuart Evans, Mr Graham Rowbotham, Mr Richard Slater, Mr Andrew Campbell, Mr Alan Pearson, Mr Lawrence Haines and Mr Anthony Orr have become partners in Messrs Simmons & Simmons.

Mr Michael R. F. Cartwright and Mr Peter G. Pike have been made directors of Associated Container Transportation (Australia).

Mr Robert Hunt becomes director, semiconductor memories for ITT Semiconductors, United Kingdom. He continues as plant manager, ITT Semiconductors, Foots Cray.

Mr D. Parkin is now on the board of Robinson Willey Limited.

Mr John Duncan, has been elected to the PA International board. Mr Douglas Muirhead, chairman of the United Kingdom board of PA Management Consultants has retired and has been succeeded by Mr Kenneth Hampton. Mr John Foden, chief executive of PA's Personnel Services, has been elected to the United Kingdom board.

Mr J. A. Caldecott has joined the board of Chloride Group.

Mr Dennis Close has been appoined by Serck Controls as operations director, and Mr Michael Jenkins has become marketing director.

Mr Francis J. Lambert has been appointed by Chemical Bank as a vice-president responsible for its European shipping group based in London.

Mr Peter L. Walker has become executive chairman of Pielle & Company Ltd. He will take personal responsibility for the development of the company's management and corporate affairs division—Pielle Consultants.

Mr Laurie Heylings has joined the board of New Smiths Stainless Ltd.

Mr David Wadsworth has joined The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society as head of finance.

Mr Adrian Fleetwood, managing *director of the domestic appliance division*, Carron Company, has been made a director of Carron Company. Mr Ray A. Hannah is now marketing director of the domestic appliance division.

Mr E. D. D. Ryder has resigned as chairman and a managing director of Cater Ryder and Company but remains on the board. Mr James Barclay, a managing director, becomes chairman.

Mr D. S. Mattey has retired from the chairmanship of Speedwell Gear Case Company. Mr John Whitehead, finance director, takes over the responsibilities of chairman, whilst Mr Hugh Kirton and Mr Gerry Cecilch, the sales and commercial directors, become joint managing directors.

Mr John Jarvis has joined the board of Fisons Scientific Equipment Division as director of personnel and administration.

Mr D. A. Brooks and Mr H. N. Khan are joining the parent board of Dundonian.

Mr D. H. A. Harrison has been named principal manager for Portugal, of the Bank of London & South America. Mr J. W. S. Cook has been made principal manager for The Netherlands by Lloyds Bank International.

Mr Nicholas Selbie, an executive director of Barclays Merchant Bank has been seconded as a director of that bank to work in the group office of Barclays Bank International, New York.

Mr A. M. Clapperton and Mr R. L. John have been made assistant directors of County Bank.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	−1	6.7	10.5	5.8
44	21	Armitage & Rhodes	42	−2	1.4	3.3	17.3
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	38	County Cars Pref	38	—	—	—	—
98	88	Deborah Services	96	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
126	88	Frank Horsell	113	—	6.4	5.7	3.5
110	56	Frederick Parker	56	—	11.0	19.6	2.6
110	74	George Blair	78	—	3.1	4.0	—
110	59	Jackson Group	108	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	120	—	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	−1	31.3	9.5	—
53	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	216	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	12¼	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	76	—	15.0	19.7	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	37	—	3.0	8.1	5.7
102	81	Walter Alexander	101	—	5.7	5.6	5.6
258	181	W. S. Yeates	258	+2	12.1	4.7	1.2

MARKET REPORTS



Commodities

COPPER was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £750.50-57.50 a metric ton; three months, £779-79.50. Sales, 5,375. Cash cathodes, £746-48; three months, £764-65. Sales, 25 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £756-67; three months, £779-80. Settlement, £757.00. Sales, 14,950 tons (mainly carries). Cash cathodes, £748-49; three months, £764.50-65. Settlement, £749. Sales, 150 tons.
TIN steady.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £5,795-58 a tonne; three months, £5,940-50. Sales, 460 tonnes. High grade, cash, £5,795-58; three months, £5,940-50. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash, £5,800-05; three months, £5,940-45. Settlement, £5,805. Sales, 540 tonnes. High grade, cash £5,800-05; three months, £5,940-45. Settlement, £5,805. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, $M30.32 a picul.
LEAD was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £275.50-74 per tonne; three months, £285-85.50. Sales, 9,075 tonnes (mainly carries). Morning.—Cash, £278-79; three months, £284.50-90.50. Settlement, £279. Sales, 9,750 tonnes (mainly carries).
ZINC was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £306-07 per tonne; three months, £318-18.50. Sales, 1,100 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £306.50-07; three months, £315.50-19. Settlement, £307. Sales, 28,200 tonnes (mainly carries).
PLATINUM was at £185.60 ($445.00) a troy ounce.
SILVER was easier.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 542.95p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,305.00); three months, 561.80p (1,364.00c); six months, 581.50p (1,431.80c); one year, 617.95p (1,522.00c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 554.37p; three months, 553.55p. Sales, 95 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 542.45p; three months, 562.65p. Settlement, 545p. Sales, 136 lots (about half carries).
RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet (all pence per kilo).—Spot, 55.50-56.00; Cifs, March, 60.00-60.50; April, 60.25-61.00.
RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo).—March, 56.50-56.60; May/April, 57.60-57.80; April/June, 59.00-59.10; July/Sept, 62.10-62.30; Oct/Dec, 65.10-65.20; Jan/March, 68.00-69.10; April/June, 71.00-71.10; July/Sept, 73.90-74.00; Oct/Dec, 76.90-77.00. Sales, 13 lots at five tonnes, 405 at 15 tonnes.
ALUMINIUM was steady but quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £579-79.50 per tonne; three months, £599-600. Sales, 1,625 tonnes (about half carries). Morning.—Cash, £578.50-79.50; three months, £599.50-600. Settlement, £579.50. Sales, 3,750 tonnes.
NICKEL was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,640-42 per tonne; three months, £2,620-25. Sales, 108 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,640-50; three months, £2,620-25. Settlement, £2,650. Sales, 90 tonnes.
COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Jan, 955-58; March, 971-92; May, 995-97; July, 1011-15; Sept, 1027-30; Nov, 1028-32; Jan, 1038-51. Sales: 2,583 lots including 20 options.
ARABICA (officials at 1645).—Feb, 141.50-44.00; April, 141.00-43.00; June, 142.00-42.25; Aug, 142.00-44.00; Oct, 143.00-47.00; Dec, 145.00-47.00; Feb, 145.00-46.00.
COCOA was steady.—(£ per metric ton).—March, 841-43; May, 865-66; July, 890-91; Sept, 911-12; Dec, 941-42; March, 965-67; May, 985-88. Sales: 2,138 lots including 5 options.
SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £4 lower at £258.00; the "whites" price was £3 lower at £289.00. Futures were easier (£ per tonne): March, 266.05-66.40; May, 269.25-69.50; Aug, 268.50-68.75; Oct, 264.25-64.50; Jan, 244.60-46.00; March, 245.00-45.00; May, 245.00-46.00. ISA prices (Jan 28): daily 26.37c; 15-day average 27.35c.
SOYABEAN MEAL was barely steady (£ per tonne).—Feb, 112.50-17.00; April, 117.70-17.80; June, 120.20-20.40; Aug, 122.50-25.60; Oct, 120.50-22.90; Dec, 123.00-26.50; Feb, 133.00-28.50. Sales, 104 lots.
No 2 contract was quiet: Jan, 342-one only; March, 353-357; May, 359-365; Aug, 369-373; Oct, 373-378; Dec, 377-384; Jan, 383-386; March, 384-387; May, 384-390. Sales, 19 lots.
GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring No 1 13½ per cent was unquoted; US dark northern spring No2 14 per cent, March, £107.75 trans-shipment east coast; US hard winter 13½ per cent, Feb £102.25; March, £103.75 trans-shipment east coast; EEC was unquoted; English feed fob first-half, March, £111.25.
MAIZE: US/French, Jan, £121, Feb, £122.5 east coast; S. African yellow, Feb/March, £86.50.
BARLEY: English feed fob Feb £102 east coast; April, £104.50 east coast (all per tonne cif UK unless stated).
London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY was easy: March, £97.75; May, £101.40; Sept, £94.60; Nov, £98.45. Sales, 297 lots. WHEAT was steady: March, £107.65; May, £111.85; July, £115.75; Sept, £100.90; Nov, £105.80. Sales, 165 lots.
Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
S. East	—	£104.60	£96.00
S. West	—	—	£95.70
W. Midlands	—	£101.70	£97.00
N. West	—	£106.20	£97.20

MEAT COMMISSION.—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Jan 29: GB cattle 83.61p per kg lw (−1.12); UK sheep 157.31p per kg est dcw (−1.79); GB pigs 66.06p per kg lw (−0.15). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 20.0 per cent, average price 83.41p (−1.40); Sheep numbers down 11.0 per cent, average price 158.33p (−1.04); Pig numbers up 4.5 per cent, average price 66.06p (−0.15). Scotland: Cattle numbers down 26.6 per cent, average price 84.28p (−0.30); Sheep numbers down 12.4 per cent, average price 132.10p (−4.11).
POTATOES (Gafta).—Feb, £44.00; April, £56.40; Nov, £55.80. Sales, 140 (all of 40 tonnes each).

Opec to hold aid talks on agriculture

Finance ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will meet in Vienna today to discuss increasing their aid for agricultural development and world commodity trade.

The ministers, who postponed a meeting in Quito last October because of the Iran-Iraq war, will consider allocating $435m (£181m) or more to the International Fund for Agricultural Development according to Opec aid director, Mr Ibrahim Shihata.

Mr Shihata, director general of the Opec fund for international development, said they would also discuss individual members' contributions to the $100m sum Opec has earmarked for the common fund to stabilize world commodity prices.

The Opec fund contributed $435m—almost half the initial budget—to IFAD when it began three years ago. Negotiations for the common fund, long sought by Third World states through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), ended successfully last year.

Mr Shihata said the ministers would not discuss Opec's long-term strategy, a project temporarily shelved because of the Gulf conflict. But he said they might consider the aid proposals included in the strategy committee's draft report.

Discount market

Money looked to be slightly in surplus in a very quiet discount market yesterday, but the Bank of England found that this was not really showing at surface level and that a little assistance was needed.

So the Bank bought a small quantity of Treasury Bills direct from the houses.

Rates during the morning were indicated within a range of 13 per cent to 13⅛ per cent

Foreign exchange report

The dollar continued very firm on active but unsettled foreign exchange markets yesterday. The US currency made further appreciable gains against most major currencies including sterling which fell 1.15 cents at 2.3975 compared with 2.4090 overnight.

Even so, the pound was still holding up well against other continental currencies but reluctantly had to give up 0.2 points at the final effective exchange index of 81.4 (overnight 81.6).

The decline in the German mark went a stage further with the dollar appreciating at 2.0955 from 2.0802 overnight.

The pound too, was still worth more than Dm5 closing at an unchanged 5.0250 position.

The fresh advance in the US dollar still stemmed from the US government's tax and spending cut plans, and also by the high US interest rate structure which still shows no sign of any marked decline.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 29	Market rates (close) January 29	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.3955-4080	$2.3970-3980	0.65-0.75c disc	2.40-2.50c disc
Montreal	$2.8720-8870	$2.8730-8740	0.70-0.80c disc	2.30-2.55c disc
Amsterdam	5.43-45fl	5.44½-45½fl	2½-1½c prem	5½-4½c prem
Brussels	80.20-86f	80.40-50f	18-8c prem	38-28c prem
Copenhagen	15.38-50k	15.43½-44½k	320-140ore prem	170ore prem-20ore d
Dublin	1.3385-3495p	1.3430-3440p	30p prem-10p prem	15-par p prem
Frankfurt	5.00-5.05m	5.02-5.03m	2⅝-1⅝pf prem	5¼-4¼pf prem
Lisbon	132.00-133.00e	132.20-40e	90c prem-05c disc	75c prem-105c disc
Madrid	196.75-197.60p	196.80-90p	11c prem-70c disc	160-241c disc
Milan	2375-90lr	2378-79lr	8¼-11¼lr disc	27½-30½lr disc
Oslo	12.92-13.00k	12.95-96k	135ore prem-30ore d	175ore prem-5ore d
Paris	11.53-60f	11.56-57f	3¼-2¼c prem	7½-6½c prem
Stockholm	10.90½-94½k	10.91½-92½k	1115-1275ore disc	3030-3205ore disc
Tokyo	487-93y	490-91y	265-195y prem	655-585y prem
Vienna	35.40-70sch	35.52-57sch	14-11gro prem	35-30gro prem
Zurich	4.51½-57½f	4.56-57f	2⅝-2⅛c prem	8¼-7¼c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was down 0.2% to 81.4%.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0380-2.0530
Bahrein	0.9055-0.9085
Finland	9.5255-9.5655
Greece	115.50-117.50
Hongkong	12.5875-12.6275
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6540-0.6570
Malaysia	5.3150-5.3450
Mexico	55.55-57.05
New Zealand	2.5110-2.5310
Saudi Arabia	8.0025-8.0325
Singapore	4.9710-5.0010
South Africa	1.8090-1.8240

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	81.4	−22.4
US dollar	88.8	−5.5
Canadian dollar	79.7	−18.8
Schilling	143.1	+21.2
Belgian franc	110.0	+10.0
Danish kroner	98.5	−9.5
Deutsche mark	142.3	+37.6
Swiss franc	181.5	+73.5
Guilder	105.9	+16.2
French franc	94.6	−8.8
Lira	49.0	−53.5
Yen	146.1	+42.9

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.7840-1.7860
† Canada	1.1982-1.1185
Netherlands	2.2700-2.2720
Belgium	33.53-33.56
Denmark	6.44-6.46
West Germany	2.0950-2.0960
Portugal	55.10-55.25
Spain	82.10-82.20
Italy	991.50-992.50
Norway	5.4050-5.4250
France	4.8200-4.8250
Sweden	4.56-4.58
Japan	204.50-204.70
Austria	14.79-14.81
Switzerland	1.8990-1.9010

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8344-0.8367

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.7084	+4.82	+0.52	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	8.01317	+3.75	−0.55	1.64
German D-mark	2.48203	2.60254	+4.85	+0.55	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.99498	+2.53	−1.77	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.82175	+2.85	−1.45	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.696756	+4.27	−0.03	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1231.72	+6.39	+2.09	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 18½-19½; seven days, 17¾-17⅞; one month, 17⅝-17⅞; three months, 17⅝-17⅞; six months, 16⅝-16⅞.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $505 (an ounce); pm, $493.75 close, $490.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $505-508 (£210.75-212.00).
Sovereigns (new): $125-127 (52-53).

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%
(Last changed 24/11/80)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%
Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 14¼ Low 10
Week Fixed: 14⅛-14¼

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⅞	2 months	12¾
3 months	12¹³⁄₁₆	3 months	12¹¹⁄₁₆

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) / Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13⁷⁄₁₆-13¹¹⁄₃₂	3 months	13⅞
3 months	13⅜-13²⁹⁄₃₂	4 months	13⅝
4 months	12¹³⁄₁₆-12¹¹⁄₁₆	6 months	12⅞
6 months	12⁹⁄₁₆-12⁸⁄₁₆		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15⅝-15½	7 months	14-13⅞
2 months	15⅝-15⅜	8 months	14-13¾
3 months	14⅞-14⅝	9 months	13⅞-13¾
4 months	14⅝-14⅜	10 months	13⅞-13⅝
5 months	14¼-13⅞	11 months	13⅞-13⅝
6 months	14-13¾	12 months	13½-13¼

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14⅝-14¼	6 months	13¹⁄₁₆-12¹⁵⁄₁₆
3 months	13¾-13⅝	12 months	12⅞-12¾

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14½	3 months	13¹³⁄₁₆
7 days	14½	6 months	13⅝
1 month	14⅜	1 year	13⁵⁄₁₆

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 14¼ Close 10

1 week	14⅝-14⅛	6 months	13⅞-13¾
1 month	14⅝-14⅜	9 months	13¾-13⅝
3 months	13¹⁵⁄₁₆-13¹³⁄₁₆	12 months	13⁹⁄₁₆-13⁷⁄₁₆

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 14⁷⁄₁₆-14⁵⁄₁₆ 6 months 13⅞-13¾

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Wall Street

New York, Jan 29.—A surge by the steel group injected new life into heavy industry stocks and they led the stock market higher in moderate trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.31 points to close at 948.89. Advances edged declines eight to seven. Turnover rose to 38,000,000 shares from 36,690,000 yesterday but continued below recent levels.

Experts said investors may remain cautious until they see how the Reagan economic package is received by Congress.

Volume leader LTV Corporation rose one to 20⅞ and United States Steel, in second place, gained 1⅛ to 27⅜.

Bethlehem Steel climbed 1⅜ to to 25½, Republic Steel 1⅛ to 25⅞, National Steel 1⅛ to 26 and Inland Steel one to 30⅜.

Among other industrial issues, active Du Pont rose 1½ to 43⅜, Union Carbide 1⅛ to 56⅞. General Motors ⅜ to 45 and International Harvester ⅞ to p4u.

Gulf Oil, which reported lower fourth-quarter net, lost ⅛ to 40⅜. Westinghouse Electric climbed one to 29⅞. Gulf Oil agreed to pay Westinghouse $25m to settle a uranium supply suit. Westinghouse also received conditional approval to buy 28 per cent of Teleprompter Corp.

Blue Bird Inc gained 3½ to 31⅛. Allegheny Ludlum proposed to buy Blue Bird for $40 a share in stock and debt. Blue Bird said the offer was inadequate.

Teledyne voted a three-for-two split and added ½ to 194⅛. Newmont Mining, which hit 55⅜ at one point, dropped back to 50⅞ to close down ⅜.

[illegible]

US commodities

New York, Jan 29. Gold (Comex) futures for February closed at $516.00 an ounce, up $9.50 on yesterday.—Feb, $513.00-$519.00; March, $522.30; April, $526.00-$530.00; June, $539.00-$543.00; Aug, $553.00-$555.00; Oct, $565.00-$567.00; Dec, $585.00; Feb, $594.00; April, $607.00; June, $620.00; Aug, $633.00; Oct, $646.00; Dec, $659.00.
CHICAGO IMM GOLD: Feb, $512.00; March, $524.00-$520.00; April, $528.80; June, $543.00-$540.00; July, $548.70; Sept, $562.00; Oct, $568.00; Dec, $580.90; Jan, $587.30; March, $600.10.
SILVER (Comex) futures rallied by $1.04 from eight-month lows to close 40 cents higher on big short-covering and stop-loss buying triggered by rumours, later denied, that the United States embassy in Warsaw was being evacuated. Feb, 1,385.00c-1,390.00c; March, 1,385.00c-1,400.00c; April, 1,415.00c; May, 1,432.00c-1,445.00c; July, 1,472.00c; Sept, 1,510.00c; Dec, 1,566.50c; Jan, 1,585.00c; March, 1,622.00c; May, 1,659.00c; July, 1,696.00c; Sept, 1,733.00c; Dec, 1,789.00c.
COPPER: Feb, $81.75; March, $83.00-83.10; April, $84.50; May, $85.80-86.00; July, $88.30; Sept, $90.40-90.50; Dec, $93.80; Jan, $94.15; March, $95.90; May, $97.50; July, $99.10; Sept, $100.70; Dec, $103.10.
COTTON: March, 89.00-89.30c; May, 90.58-90.80c; July, 91.60-91.60c; Oct, 87.60-87.75c; Dec, 84.60-84.75c; March, 85.60-85.80c; May, 86.75c; July, 86.50-87.00c.
SUGAR futures closed 1.68 to 1.00 cent lower in a sympathetic setback with precious metals. Sugar 11 closing prices were: March, 26.20c-26.40c; [illegible]

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]



Stock Exchange Prices

Strong demand for gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. § Contango Day. Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS								
99⁷⁄₁₆	89	Treas	9½%	1981	99⁷⁄₁₆	+¹⁄₁₆	9.806	13.348
98¾	91	Exch	8¼%	1981	98¾	+¼	8.387	13.021
98⁷⁄₁₆	91	Exch	9½%	1981	98⁷⁄₁₆	+⅛	9.661	12.902
95	85½	Exch	3%	1981	95	+⅛	3.158	12.770
100¼	93¾	Exch	12¾%	1981	100	+⅛	12.750	12.695
96⅝	88	Treas	8½%	1980-82	96⅝	+⅛	8.802	12.438
93⅞	81⅞	Treas	3%	1982	93⅞	+⅛	3.195	9.346
102¾	90½	Treas	14%	1982	101	+⅛	13.861	13.023
94¹⁵⁄₁₆	85¾	Treas	8¼%	1982	94⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	8.747	12.789
94¹⁵⁄₁₆	85¾	Exch	9¼%	1982	94⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	9.808	13.214
93⅝	84¼	Exch	8¾%	1983	93⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	9.378	12.774
87¾	76½	Exch	3%	1983	86¾	..	3.458	10.334
99⅝	85¾	Treas.	12%	1983	98	+⅛	12.244	13.119
93½	84¼	Treas	9¼%	1983	92⅞	+¼	9.958	12.731
102⅛	94¼	Exch	13½%	1983	101	+¼	13.368	13.045
93⅞	84¼	Exch	10%	1983	92⅞	+¼	10.769	13.055
85½	76¾	Fund	5½%	1982-84	85⅜	+⅛	6.442	11.472
97⁷⁄₁₆	86⅞	Exch	11¼%	1984	95⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	11.771	13.073
104⅝	94½	Exch	14%	1984	102⅝	+¹⁄₁₆	13.685	13.101
78¼	68¾	Exch	3%	1984	78⅝	..	3.816	10.703
98⅝	88	Treas	12%	1984	96⅞	+¼	12.395	13.111
109¼	97⅞	Treas	15%	1985	106¾	+¹⁄₁₆	14.053	12.822
73½	68¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas	3%	1985	73⅛	..	4.090	10.925
MEDIUMS								
103¼	89½	Exch	12¼%	1985	97	+⅛	12.630	13.097
97⅛	83½	Exch	11¼%	1986	94½	+¼	12.387	13.165
89¼	78¼	Treas	8½%	1984-86	86¼	+¼	9.917	12.176
105⅞	90⅝	Exch	13¼%	1987	100⅝	+¼	13.286	13.322
81½	70¼	Fund	6½%	1985-87	80	+¼	8.295	11.450

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

O — S

T — Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£34½	..	500	14.5	..
27½	19	Gt Nthn Tele	£22	..	153	7.0	8.1
353	197	Imp Cont Gas	233	–5	10.1	4.3	11.0
165	93	Milford Docks	106	+6	9.5	9.2	..
136	68	Nosco Inv	123	..	10.0	8.1	..
34	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£34	..	538	15.8	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Allied London Prop 8½% Cnv 1999 (‡)	£102
Bell A. 9½% Conv 1999-2001	£97¾
Chester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£108
Dunbar Group £1 Ord (303)	435–5
East Anglian Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£108
East Worcester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£108
Essex Water 8½% Red Pref 1985 (†b)	£105½
Exchequer 12% 'A' 1998 (†)	£21+¼
Exchequer 12¼% 'B' 1999 (†h)	£19⅞
Independent Inv 25p Ord (107‡)	120
Lon Merchant Secs 7¾% Cnv Ln 2000-05	£43¾+1½
New Tokyo Inv Trust 50p Ord	114
Portals 8½% Cnv 1994-2000 (‡)	£17¾ prem
Treasury 11½% 1989 'A' (†a)	£57½+¼
Treasury 11¾% 2003-2007 'A' (†)	£88+¼

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Johnson Matthey (184‡)	Mar 13	191f+1
Norcros (60‡)	..	12 prem+½

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £60 paid b. £10 paid. f Fully paid. g £40 paid h £20 paid.

Motoring

BL making no extravagant sales promises

This is the time when car manufacturers disclose their sales forecasts for the coming year. As usual, some of the targets have been wildly optimistic and should bring blushes to more than a few cheeks when they are compared with the actual figures after December 31.

It is a mark of the sober climate in which BL operates that the company is making no extravagant promises for 1981 and Mr Peter Johnson, the new United Kingdom sales director, will be moderately satisfied if the final market share comes out at between 20 and 21 per cent.

That, at least, would represent a revival from the record low of 18.22 per cent last year, and 19.63 per cent in 1979, but with the total market expected to be down from 1,500,000 to about 1,400,000, BL could take a bigger share without selling any more cars.

Mr Johnson admits that it will be difficult to hold even 20 per cent amid what promises to be fierce competition. Ford has taken the initiative by announcing price cuts and improved specifications at no extra cost and Fiat has reduced all prices by 10 per cent and there is still heavy discounting by dealers.

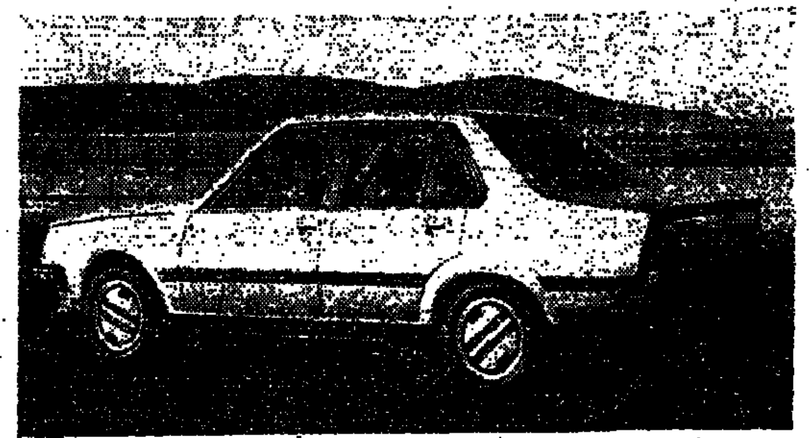
Of particular concern to BL (and Ford) is the sharp decline in the fleet market, which accounts for well over half of all new cars sold in Britain. In the present economic climate, companies are tending to hang on to cars, rather than replacing them, and sales of popular fleet models, like the Cortina and Vauxhall Cavalier, are badly down compared with this time last year.

For many years Ford has dominated the fleet market with the Cortina and Escort. One of BL's weaknesses is that it has not been able to offer a comparable winner, despite some success with the Marina/Ital. But it is making a special push in the fleet sector in 1981, with hopes of the Metro at one end and the Princess at the other.

The Metro has won big contracts from the British School of Motoring and the Granada television rental firm and other companies, conscious of the need to keep running costs to the minimum, may decide that the Metro's outstanding fuel consumption and 12,000 mile servicing intervals are just the ticket.

The Princess is still suffering from the poor image generated by well publicized troubles with, among other things, drive shafts. BL claim there has been a sharp improvement in quality and reliability in the past 18 months and that is coming through in secondhand values. But it is much easier to lose a reputation than to regain one.

For 1981 the Princess has undergone a series of minor revisions, mainly to improve specification and make the car quieter, and by containing price rises BL is hoping to sell the car directly against the middle and upper ranges of the Cortina. Princess prices start at £4,788 for the 1.7 litre and rise to £6,482 for the 2.2.



The Renault 18—turbo for the family motorist.

This week I renewed acquaintance with the Princess on what BL considers to be a typical executive's journey, from London to Bristol and back. The trip underlined the car's main virtues, the big amount of passenger space, the infinitely adjustable front seats, height as well as rake and reach, and the comfortable ride (though the springing is better than the damping and undulating surfaces can set up wallow).

From all those points of view it is an excellent long-distance cruiser and two out of three available engines, the 1.7 and the 2.2 litre six, are quiet and smooth enough to ensure that the car is easy on the ear as well as the body. The two-litre unit, however, develops an unfortunate boom at the crucial 70 mph and sounds so busy at that speed that it cries out for an extra gear.

A five-speed gearbox is one option BL has been looking at for the Princess and another is a tailgate, for which the car's wedge shape is perfectly suited. The present boot opening is too small and a fifth door would be a considerable asset. I understand a hatchback version is about a year away.

Other freshening-up exercises can be expected from BL on the Allegro (soon), the 12 cylinder Jaguar (in the summer) and the Rover (early in 1982). By this summer, too, the Metro should have joined the select band of small cars, Mini, Renault 5, Honda Civic, that offer automatic transmission.

The success of the Metro, likely to take 8 per cent of the market this month, shows how much BL can be revitalized by new models. The next one will be the Honda-based Triumph Acclaim in October and after that the LC10 medium car. But the timelag between the Acclaim and the LC10 could be 18 months and with the Maxi, Ital and Allegro getting no younger, it will be an awkward period for BL to bridge.

Renault 18 Turbo

Readers who feel there has been rather a lot about turbocharged cars in this column recently may be assured that after today the subject will lie fallow for a while. But Renault's approach to turbocharging is particularly interesting and in marked contrast to that of Saab and Audi, whose turbo models have been the subject of my last two road tests.

Instead of going to the top of its range to introduce the "blown" engine, Renault has chosen medium and small cars for the purpose. The R5 Turbo, reviewed by my colleague John Blunsden last year, is not yet on sale in Britain; but the 18 is now available here and represents the first application of turbo to the medium family saloon.

Turbo tends to suggest tyre-scorching aggression but the blown 18 is not, Renault insists, a sports car. It is still a family saloon but one with better performance and smoother running. Despite a high price, £6,589, Renault expects the turbo to account for one in 10 of the 18's projected 30,000 sales in Britain this year.

The engine chosen for the turbo treatment is the 1565cc unit which has been used in R12 and R17 Gordini versions. Turbo has increased the power output to 115 bhp, compared with the 79 bhp of the 1647cc engine in other 18 models, and maximum torque at 133lb ft is considerably higher as well.

The effect is to make the car distinctly quicker and more flexible. On Renault's own figures, it reaches 60 mph from rest in 10 seconds, instead of 12.8 on the conventional 18, and has a top speed of 115 mph, instead of 100 mph. Probably of more value to the average driver is better top-gear acceleration, making overtaking both easier and safer.

The turbo comes in smoothly, with a well-muffled whine, and the extra surge of power is impressive. Renault claims that the application of turbo has made the engine generally smoother and quieter: certainly, it idles almost silently and will maintain a cruising speed of up to 100 mph with little effort.

Them ain reservation about turbo is that it is an expensive means of providing power which in normal driving is very little used. As on the Saab and the Audi 200, the blown engine does not come into its own much below 3,000 rpm: so you have to drive the R18 fairly hard to reap the benefit. It follows, however, that fuel consumption is little worse than on the ordinary 18, with an overall 30 mpg well within reach.

The R18 Turbo is fitted with a five-speed gearbox, which, on the car I tried, had a somewhat rubbery change; larger, and rather fierce, brakes; and stiffer suspension. Externally, the car is distinguished by front and rear spoiler, big black bumpers, alloy wheels and, in case the message has not got across, the word "turbo" on each front door.

Inside, there are high-backed seats with side supports finished in velour cloth, and a new dashboard, which includes a turbo pressure gauge. To help justify the high price, the car has been generously equipped and among the standard items are power steering, handlamp wash/wipe, central door locking, electric front windows and a leather covered steering wheel adjustable for height.

All the same, the 18 Turbo costs almost £1,300, or 25 per cent, more than the most expensive conventional 18 with the same gearbox, and potential customers may ask themselves whether this substantial premium is worth paying for a useful, though limited, increase in performance and equipment they could do without.

I must admit to being sceptical about the exercise and feel that Renault could have supplied the extra performance more easily and cheaply by fitting a two-litre engine as it did on the 18's sister car, the Fuego. Fuel consumption, too, would be little different, if the Fuego's figures are any guide.

Renault admits that the 18 Turbo is an experiment, though in France the car has been selling better than expected. There is no reason why turbo should not be applied to the Fuego, arguably the more appropriate vehicle for it, and one that can take a high price.

Panther reborn

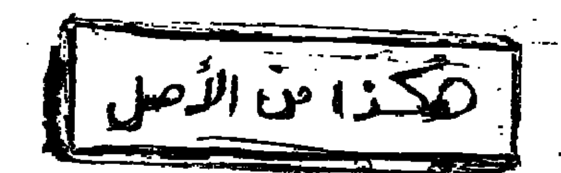
The Panther company, which had to call in the receiver in December, 1979, is back in business under its unlikely new owner, Jindo Industries of South Korea, whose interests include containers and furs. It is planned to build chassis in Korea and ship them to the Panther works at Byfleet in Surrey where the cars are assembled.

Production has been resumed on a modest scale and three models are again being offered: the Lima, an open sports car powered by a 2.3 litre Vauxhall engine, at £10,987; the J72, which has the six-cylinder Jaguar engine and costs £26,384; and the De Ville, a 12-cylinder luxury saloon in the 1930s style which is one of the most expensive cars sold in Britain at £67,275.

Peter Waymark

(continued on page 26)

هكذا من الأصل



Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

PERSONAL CHOICE

Not needing to work for the eighteen years of her marriage, newly-divorced Kate (Susannah York) finds it more difficult to get a job than she imagined in the second episode of Second Chance (ITV 9.00 pm).

● A couple of years ago the Post Office commissioned wildlife artist Gordon Beningfield to design a series of four stamps to celebrate British butterflies. When these stamps are issued on May 13 three of them—the Peacock, the Small Tortoiseshell and the Chequered Skipper—are happily flying around our countryside, but the fourth, the Large Blue has already been officially declared extinct in Britain. Tonight's In the Country programme entitled Butterfly Post (BBC 2, 7.55) follows Mr Beningfield on his search for the elusive subject matter of his commission. In particular, it gives an insight into the private world of the Large Blue and how lepidopterists have struggled in vain to save the species from extinction. But hope is not lost and they may be reintroduced into our countryside, if it is fit to support them, because they are still to be found in France in isolated colonies. It is from these that rare film of the butterfly was shot.

● In the London Programme (London Weekend, 11.00 pm) Geoffrey Hodgson and reporter Gerry Gable investigate the vexatious topic of refuse collection. Throughout the London area and the rest of the country local authorities are looking for ways to cut expenditure. One of the services under examination is that of the dustmen. Stories are legion about some of these men—the totting, the Black Book at Christmas if in which your name does not appear, it is likely that your bin might be spilled in the garden or even "forgotten" to be emptied. Local governments are now thinking of handing over the service to private enterprise and leading this move is Southend council who will, on All Fools Day, hand over the responsibility of refuse collection to a private firm who claim they will save ratepayers some half a million pounds a year. Other boroughs featured in the programme are Wandsworth, Islington and Barnet.

● A new three-part series, A Man of Pleasure, based on Boswell's London Journals 1762-63 begins this evening on Radio 3 at 10.30. The journals have been abridged and adapted for radio by Clare Lawson Dick and James Boswell himself is performed by Gary Bond. Tonight covers the period of his arrival in London from Scotland, in winter, to experience the delights of the metropolis and his subsequent infatuation with the lovely Louisa, an actress with dubious morals.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools, Colleges: Germany. 9.25 Athlete—Hurdles. 9.52 Look and Read. 10.15 Maths. 10.35 Going to Work. 11.02 Hyn o Fyd. 11.25 You and Me (not Schools). 11.40 Exploring Science. 12.07 pm 16 Up. Closedown at 12.30.

12.45 News.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Included this afternoon is Peter Seabrook's regular gardening feature, Dig This. 1.45 How Do You Do. Carmen Munroe with rhymes and counting games for the very young (r).

2.02 For Schools, Colleges: An examination of tower blocks. 2.35 Information about studying Electronic Engineering. Closedown at 3.00.

3.20 Eira Ddoe. A Welsh programme with an English title of The Snows of Yesteryear. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2). 4.20 Undercover Elephant. Cartoon (r). 4.25 Jackanory. Joanna David reads the last part of By the Shores of Silver Lake by Laura Ingalls Wilder. 4.40 Think Again. Johnny Ball looks at nearly every aspect of textiles. What they were like in the past, what is available at the present and what we can expect in the future. 5.05 Grange Hill. Episode ten of the eighteen part serial about life in a mixed secondary school. 5.35 The Perishers. An animated version of the Daily Mirror cartoon strip (r).

5.40 News read by Jan Leeming. 5.55 Regional news. 6.20 Nationwide including Down to Earth the easy gardening guide presented by Alan Titchmarsh.

7.00 The Superstars. Eight women, including four Moscow Olympic medallists, compete for the Ferguson Trophy at Grangemouth in Scotland. The commentators are David Vine and Ron Pickering.

8.00 The Walls of Jericho. Episode two of the serial about Sophia Jex-Blake, the first woman doctor in Scotland, starring Sara Kestelman and Pat Cutherbertson. 8.50 Points of View. Barry Took takes an entertaining look at some of the points raised in viewers' letters.

9.00 News read by Angela Rippon.

9.25 Starsky and Hutch. The dynamic duo solve another murder mystery in Death in a Different Place (r).

10.15 Peter Skellern. A pleasing half-an-hour with the pleasant singer recorded at The Grosvenor Hotel, Shaftesbury. His guests tonight are The Sun Life Stanshawe Band (r).

10.45 News headlines.

10.50 Royal Heritage. Part four of the story of Britain's royal builders and collectors told by Huw Wheldon (r).

11.50 Film: An Eye for an Eye (1966) starring Robert Lansing and Pat Wayne. Two crippled cowboys team up to track down the murderers of the wife and son of one of them. The film ends at 1.25 am.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales: 1.45 pm-2.00 O Dan Mor. 2.00-2.22 Y Tegwtaa. 3.20-3.53 Closedown. 4.40-5.05 Sioe Tymor. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.20-6.55 Heno. 7.00 Jerry. 7.05-7.35 Heddiw. 7.35-8.00 Crwain. 9.00-9.25 Y Gwyddlg. 9.25-9.50 Tripple. 10.15-11.05 Music Makers. 11.05 The Walls... 12.45 am Royal Heritage. 12.05-1.44 Film: Compulsion. Scotland: 1.44 Close. Scotland: 11.05 am-11.30 For Schools. 12.45 pm-12.48 Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 10.15-10.45 The Evening Show. Northern Ireland: 3.35 am... Close. Northern Ireland: 11.55 am-11.52 Closedown. 2.55 pm... 3.53 Closedown. 3.55-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. 12.45-12.50 News. 1.25 Close. England: 6.00 pm-6.20 Regional magazines. 10.15-10.45 East—Weekend, Weekend. South East—Peter Skellern. Midlands—Midlands Tonight. North West—Gone, Gone. North—Pat Ward... North East—Home. South West—... South—... Newsweek. West—... Grand... Operation Elvis. 10.50-11.05 News. 11.05-11.50 Royal Heritage. 11.50-1.35 am Film: An Eye for an Eye. 1.35 am Close.

BBC 2

11.00 am Play School. The story today is Dick Bruna's Miffy Goes Flying, and it is presented by Floella Benjamin and Fred Harris. Closedown at 11.25.

3.30 pm International Snooker. The first of today's action from Wembley in the Benson and Hedges Masters. Play is introduced by Desmond Lynam and the commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Karnehm and John Pulman. There is further coverage at 9.55.

5.40 Harold Lloyd in From Hand to Mouth the comedian plays a down-and-out whose fortunes change when he rescues a poor little rich girl. He plays a 'lazy' young man in The Kid Brother who spends his time trying to avoid work.

6.00 Monkey. Adventures of an itinerant band of young Japanese set in the last century.

6.45 Speak for Yourself. Advice for parents on how to cope with an open evening in a large school.

7.10 News including sub-titles for the hard-of-hearing.

7.20 Oxford Road Show live from Manchester with Martin Bergman, Paula Yates and Rob Rohrer.

7.55 In the Country narrated by Angela Rippon. We follow wildlife artist Gordon Beningfield as he searches for the four butterflies he has been commissioned to paint by the Post Office. (See Personal Choice).

8.25 The Kremlin Crisis. A report from the Newsweek team on how the aging Moscow hierarchy is reacting to the crises on their borders. Opinion has been sought in both Moscow and Washington.

9.00 Play: A Last Visitor for Mr Hugh Peter starring Peter Vaughan. Hugh Peter is a captured supporter of the fallen Cromwell under sentence of death. On the event of his execution the ghosts of people he has sent to the scaffold come to visit.

9.55 International Snooker. Further coverage from Wembley of the Benson and Hedges Masters Tournament.

10.45 Newsnight. In-depth news about the stories that made today's headlines.

11.20 Friday Night... Saturday Morning with Jane Walmsley in conversation with actress Felicity Kendal and authoresses Paula Fenelon and Susan Isaacs. The musical interlude is provided by Harry Chapin. The programme ends at approximately 12.25 am.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Botanic Man. Part two of David Bellamy's series: 9.58 An in-depth look at Kirkby; 10.15 French conversation; 10.38 Evolution for A-Level students; 11.02 Different fish and the methods of catching them; 11.14 Learning to read; 11.26 Mathematics for the very young; 11.43 A programme for the deaf and hard of hearing. The subject is feet.

12.00 The Magic Ball. With the aid of his magic ball, little Sam discovers why his Aunt's clock has stopped (r). 12.10 pm Once Upon a Time. Mark Wynter tells the story of Close the Door. 12.30 Bill Grundy talks to humorist Douglas Adams in a series to help people get the best from reading. Also in the studio are Richard Gordon and Malcolm Bradbury (r).

1.00 News read by Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.

1.30 Together. Another episode in the lives of the residents of a block of flats. 2.00 After Noon Plus. This afternoon's programme includes a review of the month with journalists, Sarah Hogg and Anthony Howard.

2.45 Film: A Summer Without Boys (1973). A made-for-television film about a teenage girl who goes off the rails with the help of a friend when she discovers her mother is a young man's arms. 4.15 Dr Snuggles. Cartoon adventures of a Heath Robinson character. 4.20 The Adventures of Black Beauty. A further adventure in the life of Anna Sewell's equine superstar. 4.45 Animals in Action. Keith Shackleton explores the wonders of avian migration. 5.15 Clapperboard. Chris Kelly reviews three of the latest films—Starland. Seems Like Old Times and Tribute.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter. 6.30 Thames Sport. A round-up of the week-end sporting events.

London Weekend

7.00 Family Fortunes. Bob Monkhouse hosts this friendly quiz between two families. 7.30 Vegas. Private Detective Dan Tanna is called in when three men take some hostages when they are caught robbing a casino. They demand five million dollars and kill one of the hostages to show they mean business. 8.30 The Gaffer. A comedy series starring Bill Maynard as the boss of a light engineering company who this week is tricked into employing the cousin of his secretary.

9.00 Second Chance. The second episode in the drama series about how a couple cope with divorce after being married eighteen years. Susannah York and Ralph Bates star.

10.00 News.

10.30 Benson. The upstairs, downstairs life in an American Governor's home.

11.00 The London Programme. Geoffrey Hodgson with the pros and cons of employing private refuse collectors. (See Personal Choice.)

11.35 Mannix. Detective Joe Mannix investigates a million dollar burglary.

12.30 am Close with George Thomas, MP.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News.
6.10 Farming.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs, Joan Plowright.†
9.45 Feedback.
10.00 News.
10.02 International Assignment.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story.
11.00 News.
11.05 Blackwood's Magazine (1817-1980), a personal look.
11.50 Natural Selection.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 My Music.†
1.00 News.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: Meving, by Patrice Chaplin.
4.05 Weigh-in.
4.15 Poetry up to Now (4).
4.45 Story: No Fond Return of Love (10).
5.00 PM.
6.00 News.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week.†
8.10 Profile: Stephane Grapelli.
8.30 Any Questions?
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 News.
10.35 Week Ending.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: The Worm Forgives the Plough (5).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 Miles Kington.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Weather.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Contact; Music Interlude; Country Dancing Stage II; Notice Board (2); Music Workshop (2).
10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother.
11.00-12.00 Schools: Exploring Society; Listening and Writing (2); Prospect.
2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: Let's Join In: Religious Education; Music Interlude.
11.00-12.00 Study on 4: 11.00 Kontakte (14); 11.30 Allez France! (13).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Suppé, Bizet, Severac, Hahn, Saint-Saëns, Gounod, Doppler.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Music from Court of Maximilian I, Schubert, Bononcini, Lennox Berkeley, music from Spanish courts in the early 16th century.
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Rimsky-Korsakov.
10.00 Electric Phoenix, recital: Roger Marsh, Berio, David Bedford.†
10.50 Piano: Beethoven, Chopin.†
11.45 Mogens Ellegaard, accordion: Trad, Shamo, Zolotariof, Johann Strauss arr Yaskievitch.†
12.15 pm Concert, part 1: Edward Cowie, Falla.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Concert, part 2: Debussy.†
1.45 What the Critics Said (4): Song recitals.
2.35 Del Mar Conducts: Ireland, Lennox Berkeley, Arnold Cooke.†
3.20 Cello and Piano: Bach, Michael Berkeley, Brahms.†
4.20 Choral recital: Moeran, arr Willcocks, arr Bantock, arr Rutter, arr Grainger, John Gardner, Pearsall.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.55 Play It Again.
7.00 Eilene Hannan, song recital: Ravel, Berg, Granados.†
7.30 Amadeus String Quartet, part 1: Haydn.†
7.55 Poetry of Herbert Read.
8.15 Amadeus Quartet, part 2: Beethoven.†
9.10 One Pair of Ears.
9.25 Recital: Jozsef Soproni, Gyorgy Kurtag, Miklos Kocsar, Peter Sander.†
10.30 Reading: A Man of Pleasure, Boswell's London Journal 1762-63, part 1.
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Byrd.
VHF
11.15 pm-12.15 am Open University: The First Years of Life—Down in the Dumps; Why Design a Dome?; Introduction to S101.

Radio 2

5.00 am News. 5.03 Bob Kilbey.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.03 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm David Hamilton.† 2.03 Ed Stewart.† 4.03 Much More Music.† 6.03 John Dunn.† 8.02 Music Night from the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend.†. 8.40 Talk. 9.00 Music Night, part 2.† 10.02 Listen to Les. 10.30 The Organist Entertains. 11.02 Brian Matthew. 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Steve Wright. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.31 Anne Nightingale. 10.02-12.00 Rock Show.† Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm. With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Intermezzo. 8.30 Book Programme. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Music Now. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 What Ho. Jeeves. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 11.25 Ulster Newsletter. 11.30 Assignment. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 The Angel of the Prisons. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Theatre Call. 4.35 Letter from London. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 The Week in Wales. 5.15 Music Now. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 Time off. 9.45 Letter from London. 9.55 Frequency Information. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 What Ho. Jeeves! 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Dancers of the Renaissance. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Book Programme. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just a Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

REGIONAL TV

ATV

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: In Name Only (Michael Callan). 6.00-7.00 ATV Today. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 News. 11.05-1.00 Film: Barbarella (Jane Fonda).

Yorkshire

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Storm in a Teacup* (Vivien Leigh, Rex Harrison). 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Sport. 7.00 Family Fortunes. 7.30-8.30 Hawaii Five-O. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Snooker. 11.45-12.40 am Lou Grant.

Scottish

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Miss Sadie Thompson (Rita Hayworth). 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.25 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Hear Here. 7.30-8.30 Thingummyjig. 10.30 Ways and Means. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05-12.30 am Film: Hellbenders.

Grampian

As London except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Third Girl from the Left (Kim Novak, Tony Curtis). 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Reflections. 10.35 Police Story. 12.10 Seachd Laithean. 12.25 am-12.30 News.

Border

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film. Watusi (George Montgomery). 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Survival. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Quiz Men. 11.00 Quincy. 11.55-11.58 News.

Ulster

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime 2.45 Film: Storm in a Teacup* (Vivien Leigh, Rex Harrison). 4.13-4.15 News. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.05 Benson. 11.35-11.45 Bedtime.

Granada

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Live from Two. 2.50-4.15 Film: Kate McShane (Anne Meara). 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30-7.00 Kick Off. 10.30 Week on Friday. 11.00 After all that, this. 11.10-1.25 am Film: McCabe and Mrs Miller (Warren Beatty, Julie Christie).

Southern

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Of Mice and Men* (Burgess Meredith). 5.15-5.45 Gambit. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.00 Scene South East. 6.30-7.00 Out of Town. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.35 Piranhas. 11.05 Benson. 11.35 Film: Solo Sunny (Renate Krossner). 1.20 am Weather followed by What use Cathedrals?

Tyne Tees

As London except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News, lookaround. 2.00-4.15 Story of Radio City Music Hall. 6.00 News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 10.30 News. 10.32 Film: Deliverance (John Voight, Burt Reynolds). 12.30 am-12.35 Countryside Christian.

Westward

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Film: 13 Frightened Girls (Murray Hamilton). 4.12-4.15 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 6.00-7.00 Westward Diary. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.32 News. 10.36 Soap. 11.05 In Business 11.35 SWAT. 12.30 am-12.35 Faith for Life.

Anglia

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Affair in Trinidad* (Rita Haywood, Glenn Ford). 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.30 7 Days. 11.00 Soap. 11.30 Film: Salome (Rita Hayworth, Stewart Granger). 1.25 am At the End of the Day.

HTV

As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.45-4.15 Film: Anastasia (Ingrid Bergman, Yul Brynner). 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 WKRP in Cincinnati. 7.30-8.30 Chips. 10.28 News. 10.35 Report Extra. 11.05 Soap. 11.35-12.30 am Charlie's Angels. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 9.35 am-9.50 Am Gymru. 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.45 Yr All Don. 5.15-5.45 Muppet Show. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.35-11.05 Outlook.

Channel

As London except: 12.00-12.30 pm Closedown. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Thirteen Frightened Girls (Murray Hamilton). 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Encore. 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.28 News. 10.36 Soap. 11.05 Brown Study. 11.35-12.35 am SWAT.

Entertainments Guide

S Unsold seats at cut price to students just before performance. CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office. When telephoning, use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258.
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight & Wed. 7.30: Cinderella. Tomor. & Thurs. 7.30: Romeo & Juliet. 104 balcony seats avail. from 10 a.m. on day of perf.

COVENT GARDEN 240 1066 'S' (Gardencharge cc 836 6903). 65 Amphiseats avail for all perfs from 10.00 am on the day of perf.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Tom'r & Tues at 7.30 Un ballo in maschera (Paul Hudson replaces Forbes Robinson all perfs). Tomor at 7.30 Cosi fan tutte.
THE ROYAL BALLET
Mon & Wed at 7.30. Troy Game, A Month in the Country (Conley & Silver replace Seymour & Wall Mon perf). Les Noces Thurs at 8.00 La Fille mal gardée.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1 Tel 01-837 1672 1673 3856 Credit Cards 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 01-278 0871.
Until Feb 21
D'OYLY CARTE presents
GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERAS
Evs 7.30. Mats Sat and Feb 11 & 18 at 2.30. Tonight until Wed The Pirates of Penzance. Thur. until Feb 7 Iolanthe. Tkts £2.00 to £7.50.

THEATRES

ADELPHI S CC 01-836 7611 Evgs at 7.30. Sats. 4.0 & 7.45 Mats. Thursdays at 3.0
TONY BRITTON
CAROLINE VILLIERS
PETER BAYLISS
and ANNA NEAGLE in
MY FAIR LADY
"A MARVELLOUS SHOW"—Now! "SPECTACULAR"—D. Express. "STUNNING"—Time Out. Now Booking through to Oct. For Group Bookings Telephone 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061

ALBERY—OMEGA SHOW GUIDE
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, EDUCATING RITA, TOMFOOLERY
DUET FOR ONE, PAL JOEY
CREDIT CARD SALES 379 6565 from 9 a.m. all major cards. No bkg. fees. GROUP bkgs. 836 3962. STUDENT STANDBY £2.90.

ALBERY S 836 3878 cc bkgs 379 6565. Grp bkgs 836 3962 379 6061. Eves 8. Thurs mat 3.00. Stalls from £2.90. Sat 5 & 8.15. "SIAN PHILLIPS 'A KNOCK-OUT'" S. Times/S. Exp. DENIS LAWSON Most Promising New Actor DRAMA AWARD 1980.
PAL JOEY
"IS SOMETHING TO BE SEEN AT ALL COSTS" (F.T.). RODGERS & HART'S GREATEST HIT (D. Mail). GLITTERINGLY SLEAZY SHEER THEATRICAL RAZZLE DAZZLE Std.

ALDWYCH S 836 6404 cc 379 6233 (10-6, Sats. 10-4). Info 836 5332. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't 7.30. Tomor 2.00 & 7.30
PASSION PLAY
by Peter Nichols
"Sheer Magic" F. Times. "Superlative acting" S. Tel. "The laughter came thick and fast . . . exciting start to the theatrical year" S. Times. Book now for Erdman's THE SUICIDE (next perf. Feb) and the award winning Casey's JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK (next perf. 10 Feb.). For RSC Prestel booking key 20023. Group Sales Box Office 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse/Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS S cc 836 1171 Eves 8, Tue 3, Sat 5 30 & 8.30. "One of the cleverest plays ever written" Daily Telegraph.
J. B. PRIESTLEY'S
Mystery Play
DANGEROUS CORNER
"A splendid & handsome revival" Sunday Express. "Priestley's most popular play" Observer & Times.

APOLLO, S cc 01-437 2663. Grp. Sales 379 6061. Eves 8. Wed & Sat. 5 & 8.
RODNEY BEWES FRANCIS MATTHEWS
in "An unusually truthful and intelligent comedy" The Observer.
MIDDLE AGE SPREAD
COMEDY OF THE YEAR WEST END THEATRE AWARDS 1979
LAST 2 WEEKS—ENDS 7 FEB.

CHURCHILL cc 460 6677 5838. Bromley, Kent. 7.45. Sat. 4.30 & 8. Thurs. 2.30. Faith Brook, John Arnatt, Lucy Gutteridge, Tony Caunter, David Troughton, in Edgar Wallace's thriller THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY.

COMEDY THEATRE S cc 01-930 2578. Limited season. Mon.-Sat. 8.15. Mats. Thur. 3.00. Sat. 4.00.
RALPH RICHARDSON
in the National Theatre prod. of
EARLY DAYS
by David Storey
RALPH RICHARDSON: "TRIUMPH" Gdn. "UNFORGETTABLE" Int. Hld Trib "NOT TO BE MISSED" Punch
Group sales 379 6061

COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium—seats £3.70. Day seats £2.20. Student standby £1.50) Feb 5 Preview THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN, by Tom Taylor.

CRITERION S 930 3216 cc 379 6565. Grp Bkgs 379 6061 or 836 3962. Eves 8. Fri/Sat 6 & 8.45. Robin Ray, Jonathan Adams, Martin Connor, Tricia George in
A SATIRICAL REVUE
TOMFOOLERY
Words, music & lyrics of Tom Lehrer
"HILARIOUS, BARBED AND BUBBLY" Sunday Times "OUTRAGEOUS" Guardian

DUKE OF YORKS S 836 5122. Credit cards 379 6565 836 9837. 839 4682. Group Bookings 836 3962 / 379 6061. Evenings 8.0 Sats. 5.0 & 8.30 Stalls & Circle from £2.90.
FRANCIS DE LA TOUR
ACTRESS OF THE YEAR
Swet awards 80
BEST ACTRESS
New Standard Drama Awards 80
BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS
1980 DRAMA AWARDS
and DAVID DE KEYSER
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Drama Awards of the Year 1980
in TOM KEMPINSKI'S
DUET FOR ONE
BEST NEW PLAY
Drama Awards 1980
"THE AMAZING NEW PLAY" Daily Telegraph
"NO ONE INTERESTED IN THE THEATRE CAN AFFORD NOT TO SEE THIS PRODUCTION" F.T.

GARRICK (S) cc 01-836 4601 Evgs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 5.30 & 8.30 Reduced price Mats. Fridays Group Bookings 01-379 6061.
WILLIAM FRANKLYN in
DEATHTRAP
"THE BEST THRILLER" D. T.
LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS FEB 7.

GLOBE S cc 01-437 1592. 439 6770. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 6.00 & 8.45. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.
"HINGE & BRACKET ARE TRIUMPHANTLY ENSCONCED AT THE GLOBE" E.S.
SEASON ENDS SATURDAY. For 12 weeks only. BOOK NOW! ROWAN ATKINSON IN REVUE. Previews Feb. 17 & 18 at 8.0, opens Feb. 19 at 7.0, subs. 8.0, Sat. 6.0 & 8.45.

GREENWICH THEATRE. S cc 858 7755 Evgs. 8.0 Mat. Sats. 2.30 PRESENT LAUGHTER, by Noel Coward.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE. 722 9301.
Jean-Claude Grumberg's
THE WORKSHOP
"NEEDS TO BE SEEN. LEE MONTAGUE VOLCANICALLY COMIC. LYNN FARLEIGH SUPERBLY TRUTHFUL" Tms. Mon.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 4.30 & 8 p.m.

HER MAJESTY'S 930 6606 S cc LAST PERFS.—ENDS TOMORROW! Ton't 8.0. Tomor. 5.0 & 8.15. TOMOR. MAT. HALF PRICE.
"ALL IN ALL THE BEST THING TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WEST END IN A VERY LONG TIME. A TOTAL AND UTTER DELIGHT" Punch.
THE STREETS OF LONDON
by Dion Boucicault
"The Whole Theatre Cheered" Daily Telegraph.
"A MUSICAL FEAST" Now! "Timely and what is more a great deal of fun". D. Mail. "PRACTISE HISSING AND BOOK NOW!" E. News.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL. cc 01-930 9832. For 12 weeks only. Monday-Saturday Evgs. 8.0
MAGGIE SMITH IN VIRGINIA
A new play by Edna O'Brien from the lives and writings of Virginia and Leonard Woolf. Directed by Robin Phillips. Book now.

KINGS HEAD 226 1916. Dnr 7. Show 8. DAFFODILS — The Barrow Poets.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311. Previews Ton't. Tomor. 7.30. Opens Mon. at 7.0. Subs. Eves. 7.30. HOBSON'S CHOICE. Cast includes Arthur Lowe, Julia McKenzie, Ronald Pickup. LYRIC STUDIO: Ends Tomorrow! Eves. 8.30. HERE'S A FUNNY THING. John Bardon as Max "hilarious evening" Gdn. From Mon. at 8.0 MARIKA'S CAFE THEATRE with Marika Rivera.

LYRIC S cc 01-437 3686. evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.30. 8.30.
DINSDALE LANDEN
NICOLA PAGETT
in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
TAKING STEPS
"A VERY FUNNY EVENING. I ENJOYED MYSELF ENORMOUSLY" Evening News.
"THE BEST FARCE IN TOWN"—Punch.

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage): Ton't 7.45. Tomor 3.00 & 7.45 THE PROVOKED WIFE by John Vanbrugh (not The Caretaker as in leaflet).

NATIONAL THEATRE S cc 928 2252 FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (incl. backstage) £1.50. Info. 633 0880.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 'S' Until Feb. 14 Mon to Sat Eves 7.30. Wed & Sat at 2.00 THE RELAPSE by Sir John Vanbrugh

OLIVIER (NT's open stage): Ton't Tomor 7.00 THE LIFE OF GALILEO by Bertolt Brecht trans by Howard Brenton. Tomor 11.00 a.m. & 3 p.m. HIAWATHA (Sisterly Feelings must end Feb 5).

PALACE. S cc. 01-437 6834 "OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL EVENING!" Daily Mail. Rodger's & Hammerstein's
OKLAHOMA!
"A MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE" S. Times. Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed. Sat. 3.00. For group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thur.

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evgs 7.30. Mats Tues. Wed. Thur & Sat. at 2.45. JIM DAVIDSON, HOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in
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"An evening of glitter . . . I can't remember a better pantomime at the Palladium" J Tinker D. Mail. Book now. Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales box office 379 6061. FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION THE LIBERACE SHOW '81 Starring "MR SHOWMANSHIP"
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THE SMASH HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL. Postal booking now open.

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PRINCE EDWARD. S cc Box Off. 437 6877. cc Hotline 439 8499. Grp. sales 379 6061. Eves 8.0. Mat. Thur. (Economy price) & Sat. 3.0.
EVITA
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 cc 379 6565. Group Bkgs 379 6061/836 3962. Mon.-Fri. 8. Mat. Wed. 3. Sat 6 & 8.40 Stalls from £2.90
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO.
in Willy Russell's new comedy
EDUCATING RITA
COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1980
JULIE WALTERS MOST PROMISING ACTRESS DRAMA CRITICS' AWARD 1980
"SPLENDID THEATRE EVENING QUITE ASTOUNDING"—Time Out.
"A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS, IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED & EXHILARATED" S. Tms.
RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 930 8681. Credit Card bookings 930 0846.
PAUL DANIELS in IT'S MAGIC
"TRIUMPH" Fin. Times. "A WINNER" Variety. "PURE MAGIC" Sun. Mirror. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. Easter perfs.: Good Friday as normal. EXTRA MATS 20th & 21st APRIL AT 3.0.

QUEENS S cc 01-734 1166 01-439 3849 01-439 4031.
PENELOPE KEITH
Peter JEFFREY Barbara FERRIS
MOVING
A new play by Stanley Price Directed by Robert Chetwyn
Evenings 8.0. Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.15 Grp Sales 379 6061 "STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART . . . A FUNNY AND MOVING STORY OF SELLING A HOUSE" Daily Mail.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7. 9 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts New Girls! New Thrills! 23rd sensational year! Fully air conditioned.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS. 748 3354 Ton't to Sun 7.30 David Vaughan & Al Carmines in A WINTER GARLAND OF SONGS OLD & NEW

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THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
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1 April-9 May
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13 May-6 June
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"PLAY OFF EACH OTHER BEAUTIFULLY . . . TOUCHING, FUNNY AND VERY MUCH ALIVE" Gdn.
in Charles Dyer's comedy
RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN
"COULD HAVE BEEN SCRIPTED FOR THEM" Times. "A THEATRICAL GEM" The People. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 8.45. Mat. Sat. 5.45. Reduced Group Bookings 839 3092. Credit Card bookings. Only 839 7516 (9.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. Sats 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.). Season extended.

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GOTCHA and KILLING TIME
by Barrie Keeffe
Evgs. 7.30

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AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
29th YEAR

STRAND cc 01-836 2660, 01-836 4143. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30.
NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
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THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG
GEMMA CRAVEN ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL WEST-END THEATRE AWARDS.
"This show is a real stunner. Two of the most engaging performances in London." D. Mail. If possible book at least 28 days in advance by post. Send S.A.E. and cheque. Prices: Stalls & Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00. Circle £3.50 (£1.00 seats at Box Office) (OAP's £4.00 Wed. Mats. best seats. Student Standby £4.00) Mon.-Fri. Evgs. 8.0. Mats. Wed. 3.0. Sats. 5.0 & 8.30. (Some good seats available Wed. Mats.). No seats available Sat. 2nd performances until April.

THEATRE ROYAL, Drury Lane. Tel. 01-836 8108
THE BEST LITTLE WHORE HOUSE IN TEXAS
Opens Feb. 26 at 7.00. Reduced price previews Feb. 21, 23, 24, 25 at 8.00.

TRICYCLE THEATRE 269 Kilburn High Rd., NW6. 328 8626. Crucible Theatre's Production of BLACK BALL GAME by Don Webb. "It's brilliant" Gdn. "Don Webb's first stage play is a dazzler" New Statesman. Mons-Sats. 8pm.

VAUDEVILLE S CC 01-836 9988. Twice daily 2.45 & 7.45. Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's SMASH HIT MUSICAL
JOSEPH
AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT
GRP SALES 379 6061.
"A DREAM OF A SHOW" D Ex "SIMPLY WONDERFUL" BBC

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30. Wednesday & Saturday 2.45. Group Sales 01-379 6061.
ANNIE
"UNBEATABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT" Observer.

WAREHOUSE. Donmar Theatre. Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't. Tomor. 7.30 NAKED ROBOTS by Jonathan Gems. "First rate cast" Gdn. "A very funny play" E. St. All seats £3.50. Students £2.00 in advance from Aldwych Box Office.

WESTMINSTER. S. CC. 834 0283 Hugh Manning as C. S. Lewis in
SONG OF THE LION
Directed by David William
"TRULY IMPRESSIVE" Times. "SPELLBINDING" S.Telegraph. Evenings 7.45 till Feb. 7.

WINDMILL THEATRE cc 01-437 6312. Twice nightly at 8.0 & 10.0. Sunday 6.0 & 8.0 PAUL RAYMOND presents RIP OFF. Hotter than ever for 1981. The erotic experience of the modern era. 5th Great Year.

WYNDHAM'S. S 836 3028. cc 379 6565. Red. price. Gps 836 3962. Mon.-Fri 8.00. Sat. 6 & 8.40.
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST
"Exactly the shot in the arm that the West End needed" S Times. "One of the funniest shows London has seen in a very long time" Punch. "Hilarious" D.Tel.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363. Ton't Tue. 7.30. ROSENCRANTZ. Sat. Mon 7.30 PYGMALION.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051. Air-conditioning. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT From 8.00. Dining & Dancing 9.30 SUPER REVUE
"BUBBLY"
at 11: VINCE HILL
DANCING TILL 1 A.M.
From Mon.: GRACE KENNEDY

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. 4th month Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (A) perfs. 1.00 (not Sun.), 4.10, 7.40.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Alain Resnais' MY AMERICAN UNCLE (A). Progs. 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Ends 4th Feb.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Cocteau's ORPHEE (A) and Renoir's PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE (A) Progs. 5.45, 8.15. Sats./Suns. also 3.15.

CAMDEN PLAZA, Camden Town 485 2443 (opp. Tube) ISABELLE HUPPERT in Maurice Pialat's LOULOU (X) 2.55, 4.40, 6.45, 9.00.

COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave. (734 5414) THE BLUE LAGOON (AA) cont. progs. dly. at 2.30, 4.40, 6.40, 8.40.

CURZON, Curzon St. W.1. 499 3737 BURT LANCASTER, SUSAN SARANDON in LOUIS MALLE'S ATLANTIC CITY (AA). Film at 2.0 (not Sun), 4.05, 6.20, 8.40.

DOMINION, Tott. Court Rd. (580 9562). THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U). Sep. progs. 2.30, 7.40. Sun 3.20, 7.05.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. Seats bookable for last evening perfs. Mon.-Fri. and all perfs. Sat. and Sun. (not late night shows) at the box office (11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.) or by post. No telephone bookings. THE BALTIMORE BULLET (AA). Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late Show Sat 11.15 p.m. Now RITZ, Leicester Square. WILLIE & PHIL (X) Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.) 3.50, 6.00, 8.30. Late Show Sat. 11.15.

GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill 221 0220/727 5750. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 1.00, 2.35, 4.15, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30. 1900 (X) Part 1 & Part II. 11.15 p.m.

GATE TWO CINEMA. 837 8402 1177. Russ Sq Tube. EXCLUSIVE PRESENTATION OF BETTE MIDLER'S "THE ROSE" (X) 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40. THE NIGHT PORTER (X) & CARNAL KNOWLEDGE (X) 11.00 p.m. Lic'd Bar

GATE THREE CINEMA. 262 1201 485 2446 Camden Twn Tb. WILLIE & PHIL (X) 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 9.00. Lic'd bar. Last 6 days.

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL, Stratton St. Green Park Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A). 5.30, 8.20. Seats Bookable after 5 p.m.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). Jack Lemmon in TRIBUTE (AA). Sep Progs Dly (inc Sun). Drs Open 2.10, 5.10, 8.10. Late show Fri & Sat. drs open 11 15. Seats bookable w/ends & Last Eve prog & Late Shows.

MINEMA 45 Knightsbridge 235-4225/6. Andrey Tarkovsky's "MIRROR" (U) (Russian dialogue—English subtitles). Daily: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.00 p.m.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738/2771) ALIEN (X) IS BACK! In 70mm and Stereo sound. Sep. Progs. Wks. 1.45, 4.50, 8.00. Sun 4.30, 7.45. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.15.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) THE DOGS OF WAR (AA). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly 1.30, 4.30 7.45. Late night show Fri & Sat 11.15.

ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE. BEING THERE (A). For info 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep Progs. Dly 1.50 (not Sun), 5.00 8.10.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH. W2 (723 2011/2). HAWK THE SLAYER (A). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.35 (not Sun.), 4.30, 7.30. Evening programmes & Weekends may be booked in advance.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181. British Premiere Exclusive Presentation CALIGULA (X) Sep perfs Dly. (inc Sun.) 2.15, 5.30, 8.45. Late show Fri & Sat 11.55 Seats bkble Lic'd bar.

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4. Off Piccadilly Circus, 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as Empire, Leicester Square.
Walter Matthau, Glenda Jackson **1. HOPSCOTCH (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
**2. MY BODYGUARD (A) Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 p.m.
*3. MONTY PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.35 Late show Fri. and Sat. 11.15 p.m.
*4. AIRPLANE (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, not Suns) 3.00, 5.00 7.00, 9.00. Late show Fri and Sat. 11.15 p.m.
** No smoking area.
* No smoking.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366. Woody Allen. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 3.20, 5.15, 7.10 9.15. Ring 435 9787 after 3 p.m. for phone bookings.

STUDIO 3. Oxford Circus. 437 3300 Lic'd. Bar. MY BODYGUARD (A) Progs. 1.05, 3.30, 6.00, 8.25. Late Show Sat 11.00.

EVENTS

WEMBLEY ARENA cc 01-902 1234
HOLIDAY ON ICE
WITH ROBIN COUSINS
Performances Daily except Mons. £2.20 to £5.30. Children half price. Car park Season until Feb 22

ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERY, 43 Old Bond St., W1. 629 6176. 108th ANNUAL WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION. Until 20 Feb. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Thurs until 7.

ANTHONY d'OFFAY, 9 & 23 Dering St. W1. British Art 1900-1980/Carl Andre. 629 1578.

BONNARD TO ZORN
150th exhibition of fine 19th & 20th Century etchings & lithographs. Illus. cat. 75p. Mon-Fri 10-6. Sat 10.30-1.
WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY
7 Royal Arcade, Albemarle St, W1

BRITISH LIBRARY (in Brit. Museum). BENEDICTINES IN BRITAIN. Until 1 Feb. GEORGE ELIOT. Until 26 April. TUDOR MAP-MAKING. Until 31 Dec. Wkdys. 10-5. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St. 734 7984. Keith Grant.

FINE ART SOCIETY.
148 New Bond Street, W.1.
01-629 5116
GLUCK

FISCHER FINE ART, 30 Kings St., St. James's. S.W.1. 839 3942. HANS HARTUNG. Until 13 Feb. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sats 10-12.30.

LEFEVRE GALLERY: 30 Bruton St., W.1. 01-493 1572/3. Twentieth Century Works on View. Mon-Fri. 10-5.

HOLSWORTHY GALLERY, a graphic view of the world about us. Keith West and Alan Byrne, Jan. 21-Feb. 14. 205 New King's Rd. London S.W.6. 731 2212.

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W.1. JOHN WONNACOTT First London Exhibition 17. Until Feb 6th.

PATRICK SEALE GALLERY, 2 Motcomb St., Belgravia, SW1. Paintings by EMILIE CHARMY. Until end Jan. 01-235 0934.

REDFERN GALLERY ADRIAN HEATH, New Paintings 1978-80 January 28-February 25. 20 Cork Street, London W1. Mon-Fri. 10-5.30, Sats 10-12.30.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
Piccadilly, W.1.
A NEW SPIRIT IN PAINTING
Until 18 March. Open dly. 10-6. Adm. £2.00. Concessionary rate £1.40—O.A.P.s, students, groups over 10—and until 1.45 p.m. Suns.

THE COTTAGE GALLERY, 9 Hereford Rd., W.2. 01-221 4578 German Expressionists. Selected drawings and graphics. Tues.-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 11-5.

EXHIBITIONS

THE WARWICK ARTS TRUST.—33 Warwick Sq. St. George's Drive. SW1. John Hubbard Paintings and Drawings. Daily 10-5.30. Sats. 10-1 until March 7th.

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Personal Columns	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Appointments	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Property	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Weekend Shoparound	£14.00 per cm full display, minimum 5 cms
Court Circular	£5.00 per line
Box Numbers	£5.00

". . . Should not a people seek unto their God ?"—Isaiah 8: 19.

BIRTHS

BRIGGS.—On January 14 to Lee and Richard, a son, Richard Christopher.

BULMAN.—On January 16th at Lancaster to Susan (nee Roberts) and Charles—a daughter (Jessica Louise).

CHRISTIE.—On 29th January, 1981 to Kate (née Cobb) and David, a daughter (Emma Mary Crawford).

CHUTE.—On January 28th, to Julia and Erbin—a son.

d'ADHEMAR DE LABAUME.—On 24th January, in Washington D.C., to Elizabeth (nee de Loynes) and David—a son.

DEARDSLEY.—On January 25, to Moira (nee Greek) and Mark—a daughter, Ruth Elizabeth.

FAWCETT.—On January 23th, at Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Richard and Patricia (nee Oliver)—a daughter (Clare Elizabeth).

GREEN.—On January 24th at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, Burlington, Ontario, to Marilyn and John—a second son (Alexander David).

GRUNWALD.—On January 27th, to Gill (nee Lorego) and Eric—a son (Thomas Simon).

INGLEBY.—On 26th January, 1981 to Tessa and John, a son, Mungo Henry.

JOYNSON.—On January 25 to Helene (nee Dandolos) and Gerard, a daughter Charlotte.

MACKIE.—On 28th January, to Amanda (nee Loumansky) and Alexander—a son (David Robert) at Highgate.

MAILE.—On 27th January, 1981, at St. Mary's, W.9, to Lyn (nee Powers) and Christopher—a son (Richard).

PARTRIDGE. — On January 25th, in San Francisco, to Jane (nee Calcott) and Ian, a son, Alexander Matthew.

RAIKES.—On 28th January, to David and Anne, a daughter (Elinor Frances Thicknesse), a sister for Sally.

RICHARDSON.—On January 22nd to Hazel (née Lyons) and Paul—a son, Adam James Wigham.

SHIDDELL.—On January 21st, to Dorothy (née Garton) and Charles a daughter. A sister to James.

SOMERSET.—On January 28th, at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, to Sarah (nee Mills) and Robin—the gift of a son (Charles Fitzroy), brother for Anne.

STAFFORD-CLARK.—On January, 1st, 1981, to Hilary (nee Thompson) and Nigel, a son, Daniel.

URQUHART.—On 28th January, at Yeovil, to Elaine and David—a second son (Benjamin William), brother to James.

VAUDOYER.—On Jan. 29th, in Paris, to Penny (nee Pegler) and James—a son (Romain).

VAUGHAN-ARBUCKLE. — On January 27th, to Margaret and Anthony, at the Westminster Hospital, a daughter.

WATSON.—On 26th January at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Ann and George—a daughter (Camilla Ann).

WOOD.—On January 27, to Patricia and Garth—a son.

MARRIAGE

WINDRIDGE : OLIVER.—On January 29th at Bristol, Christopher, only son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Windridge, of Trelleck, Mon., to Sally, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Oliver, of Bishopston, Bristol.

DEATHS

ACLAND.—On 26th January, 1981, at Mount Peel, Peel Forest, South Canterbury, New Zealand, Sir John Acland, K.B.E., at the age of 77. Formerly Chairman of the New Zealand Wool Board and Senior Vice Chairman of the International Wool Secretariat. Memorial service at Canterbury Cathedral, New Zealand, on Friday, 30th January.

COOKSON. — On January 27th, 1981, at Lothians Milford-on-Sea, Adelaide Helen, wife of the late Anthony and dearly loved sister of Barbara Lepper, and the late Missie Croft-Watts. Cremation private followed by service of Thanksgiving at All Saints, Milford-on-Sea: on Wednesday February 4th at 4 pm. Family flowers only. If desired, donations to The Friends of Abbeyfield c/o Barclays Bank, Lymington, Hampshire.

de DENNE.—On January 28th in hospital, Lynette Dorothy Rosemary, dearly loved sister of Kenneth de Denne. Cremation on Wednesday, February 4th at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, at 1.45 p.m., West Chapel.—Please, family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the Memorial Fund, The Embroiderers' Guild, Apt 37 Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey.

DENISON.—On January 23th, 1981 after a long illness, Rosalind Jean Elizabeth Esmeralda, aged 50, wife of Tony Denison and mother of Amanda, Tessa, Jassy. No flowers please but donations to: The Secretary Motor Neurone Disease Association, 7 Lorimer Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 4BS. Funeral service on Monday, 2nd February, 10.30, Mortlake Crematorium.

DEVONSHIRE. — On 28th January in his 82nd year, Norman George of Huntingdon, formerly of Tunbridge Wells, beloved husband of Betty and father to Michael and Peter. Funeral private, no flowers or letters, but donations if desired to the Royal Masonic Hospital, Ravenscourt Park, London W.6.

DOBSON. — On 28th January, suddenly at her home, Old School House Ampney, St. Peter, Norah Helen, much loved sister of Mervyn and Silvia. Cremation at Cheltenham crematorium, on Monday 2nd February at 2.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to the National Trust, c/o Packer and Slade, 1 City Bank Rd, Cirencester, telephone 3525.

EDMONDS.—On January 25th, 1981, Walter Gilbert Edmonds, OBE, late staff manager Cable & Wireless, in his 93rd year. Dear husband of Bertha (died 1963), father of Joan, Goode and Eric, grandfather of Darsie, Ian, Giles, Jeremy, and Jacqueline. Service at The Parish Church, Kingsland, Nr Leominster, Herefordshire, at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 2nd, followed by cremation. Please no flowers but donations would be appreciated to Kingsland Church Fund, c/o The Reverend John Williams, The Rectory, Kingsland.

FINN.—On January 27th, 1981, suddenly at his home, Patrick, husband of the late Esther Finn, father of Michael, Tim and Marcus, much loved grandfather of Emma, Patrick, Katie, Jonathan, Benjamin and John. Funeral service at Asthall Parish Church on Saturday, January 31st at 2 p.m.

GARNAR.—On 29th January, 1981, peacefully at his home, The Old Palace, Wrotham, Kent, Sydney Robert, beloved father of Rosemary, Sheena, Tony and Susan. Funeral service at Wrotham Church on Thursday, 5th February, at 2 p.m. Enquiries and flowers to W. Hodges & Co. Tel. Sevenoaks 54457.

HAYWARD, ELINOR AGNES (TIM) on 25th January, 1981, suddenly at her home in Cambridge, aged 72 years. Beloved mother of Rosemary, Stewart, Athene and Alan. Funeral service at Cambridge Crematorium, Huntingdon Rd., on Monday, 2nd February, at 12.30 p.m. Flowers may be sent to W. Eaden Lilley, Private Chapel, Mill Lane, Cambridge.

KELHAM, DR. GEOFFREY.—On 27th January, suddenly in Pryor, Oklahoma (P.O. Box 1008). Beloved husband of Barbara and dearest father of Richard and Merril. Formerly of Nairobi and Dallas. Donations if desired to World Wild Life Fund (East Africa), 29 Greville St., London, E.C.1.

KELLY-ROGERS.—On 29th January, 1981, at his home, "Spindrift," Shore Rd, Port Marnock, Co. Dublin, Ireland, Capt. J. C. Kelly-Rogers, O.B.E., F.R.Ae.S. Deeply regretted by his wife Beryl, son daughter, sister, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Funeral after 10 o'clock Mass at Church of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Dublin Airport.

PRITCHARD.—On the 26th January, 1981, Frank Sidney Pritchard, aged 86. Beloved husband of the late Marjorie and dear father, grandfather and friend. Cremation at Charing at noon, Monday, 2nd February. No flowers please.

PUMPHREY.—On January 28th, Marjorie for nearly 47 years, the loving and dearly loved wife of Bevan, Pumphrey of Moor Close, Brasscastle Lane, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough. Funeral service will be held at Nunthorpe Parish Church on Monday 2nd February, at 1 p.m. followed by private cremation. Would friends please meet at the church. No flowers or letters please.

REEVE.—On 27th January, 1981, Arthur Stretton, aged 73 years, formerly Bishop of Lichfield, a much loved husband of Flora and father of Peter Margaret and Elizabeth. Funeral service Lichfield Cathedral, Monday, 2nd February at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Church of England Children's Society or St Giles Hospice, Whittington near Lichfield.

RIMER.—On 29th January, in Johannesburg, peacefully, Sarah Rimer, much loved mother of Issy, Lionel and Arnold Benjamin, grandmother of Dan and Jo.

SUTTON.—On the 19th January, 1981 Trudie Kathryn, as a result of a boating accident in the Caribbean, darling, loving daughter of Cath and Colin, of Rhynuie, Grantown-on-Spey, very dearly loved by her Mum and Dad, Ewan and Sherie. Provisional date of service on Tuesday, 3rd February, at 2 p.m. in Inverallan Church, Grantown-on-Spey. Funeral arrangements by Beale & Pyper, tel. (0479) 2203. No wreaths, please. Flowers only.

WILSON. — On January 29th 1981, after a fall Edward Alfred aged 93. General practitioner in Bushey Heath for 50 years. Mourned by Mabel, his five children Tim, Shelagh, Michael, John, Elizabeth, 14 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Enquiries to: Hemlea Funeral Service Ltd., Park Road, Bushey, Tel: 01-950 7233. Memorial service on Sunday February 15th at 11.00 am at St James Church, Bushey.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DOWNWARD.—A memorial service for the late Brian Sutton Downward will be held on Thursday, 5th February, 1981, at 11.30 a.m., at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

WILLETT.—A memorial service for Edward Grindle Willett will be held at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley, on Saturday 14th February at 11 am.

IN MEMORIAM

ATABEY SUREYYA. — In loving memory Diana, Jehan and Jem.

HUSSEY, CICELY JOYCE, beloved sister, died two years ago today. Never forgotten.

IGARASHI-WHITE. — In loving memory of Kyoko Igarashi-White beloved wife of "Bill" St John White "No words can say how she was loved, nor tears convey how she is missed."

KING CHARLES I.—Martyred 30th January, 1649. Service and wreath laying at Statue, Trafalgar Square, 11 a.m.—Royal Stuart Society.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHELSEA ARTS CLUB BALL

Saturday, 31 Jan. Music by Midnight Follies, Divertimenti of London, The Northumberland Bagpipers, French Accordionist, Gypsy Violinist, Mushroom Disco. Theme "Painters, Paintings, Painted" at the R.A. Summer Show. Costumes judged by Bill Gibb, Molly Parkin and Zandra Rhodes. Prize, dinner for 12 on Thames barge. Tickets including dinner and breakfast, £15 each.—Ring 352 0975.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBER A DEPARTED FRIEND. With a tribute that blooms in lasting happiness for old people. There is no more fitting memorial to a loved name than to link your regard with enduring work for the lonely or frail. Every £ you give towards a Day Centre or medical assistance among elderly people in great need achieves a great deal, thanks to volunteers all over Britain. Please send your gift with the name you wish to commemorate to: The Hon Treasurer, The Rt Hon Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room TINM, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,437

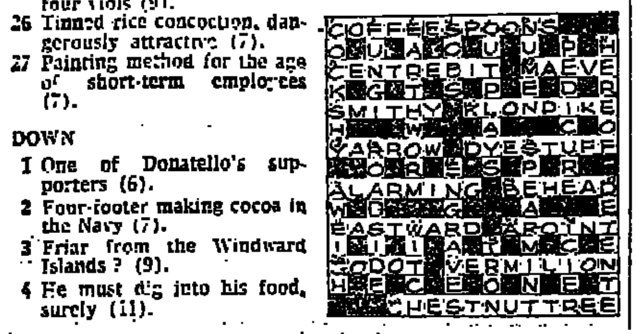
ACROSS

1 Precious stone for fairy spot (7).
5 Young runner always allowed outside (7).
9 It's obligatory for a vicar (9).
10 Arturo's operatic overture (5).
11 Trollope's doctor, we hear, goes with Rose (5).
12 Old officer in the Cracow police ? (9).
14 Washington Irving's breeches (14).
17 They provide shuttle services for Susie (6-6).
21 To that place falsely true ? Not he (9).
23 Recess for Hungarian leader in French resort (5).
24 Thin types like Lothario (5).
25 Trifling composition for four viols (9).
26 Tinned rice concoction, dangerously attractive (7).
27 Painting method for the age of short-term employees (7).

DOWN

1 One of Donatello's supporters (6).
2 Four-footer making cocoa in the Navy (7).
3 Friar from the Windward Islands ? (9).
4 He must dig into his food, surely (11).
5 The fate of his wife, well-known (3).
6 A number engrave this plant (5).
7 Bring back an army shop (7).
8 Cross that painting should rise above poetry (8).
13 We may call on him for a quid (11).
15 Stone from broken crag, minor Scottish mountain (9).
16 Secret eastern drunkard, Farrar's hero (8).
18 He may destroy a vessel or recover it (7).
19 Shut up in quarters nearby (7).
20 Praise uncommon in the old country (6).
22 Follow directions, girl (5).
23 Devotee of a lake lady (3).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,436



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION

Cookery courses.
Business and Secretarial courses.
Remedial Tuition for Adults and Children.
Language Schools and Courses.
Management Training Courses.
—Whichever you provide, The Times can put you in contact with potential pupils and students—through The Times Educational feature on February 25th.
For more information or to book your advertisement

Ring Stella Scrivener on 01-278 9351

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY . . .

Gladys White is 85, partially paralysed, and was living in fear until Counsel & Care for the Elderly found her a place in a nursing home and paid for it. Only 80p a day, or £6 a week, is needed to help other elderly people into such security. Send us a donation, please.

COUNSEL & CARE FOR THE ELDERLY
131 Middlesex Street
London E1 7JF
Tel: 01-247 9844

CANCER RESEARCH

Much is known about cancer—but not yet enough to bring it under control. Your personal donation to our work will go directly to helping the highest level of scientific research.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
ROOM 160 AB, P.O. BOX 123
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS
LONDON, WC2A 3PX.

FREE FABRIC for your sofa. See JBD in Seas. Sales.

IQ test/membership details from Mensa (B), FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR. Tel.: 0902 26055.

WOULD DAINTRY GARSIDE, last known Westcliff 1922 or anyone knowing her whereabouts please write Box 2490 F The Times.

MAGNIFICENT mid 19th century mahogany boardroom/dining table see For Sale.

HOSPITALITY BUS mechanic to tour U.K.—See Gen. vacs.

CORDON BLEU COOKS for Villas required in Greece and Portugal. See La Creme.

EVERY PHONE NEEDS A MATE—does yours?

IF YOU WANT IT, here it is.—See Services.

WANTED: Box for 1 day, Royal Ascot week. Please call 01-928 5366 or 4502.

BUSINESSMEN ! Relax. See Personal Guide Services. See Services.

2 FOR SUNNY ISRAEL !—Housekeeper and Mother's Help.—See Dom.

ISRAELI Elections this year to understand the news, see For Sale.

FRED OWEN.—Many congratulations on your new job. Hope you and The Times can get along without each other M&S.

CAR number plates "WG ? ? ? ?" wanted—see Wanted.

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GOLD CUP/BADMINTON Horse Trials. Accommodation.—See Rentals.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 24

UK HOLIDAYS

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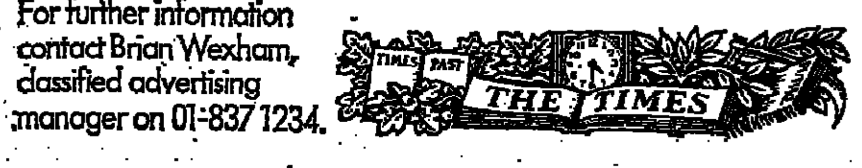
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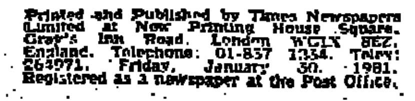
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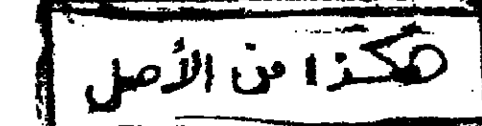
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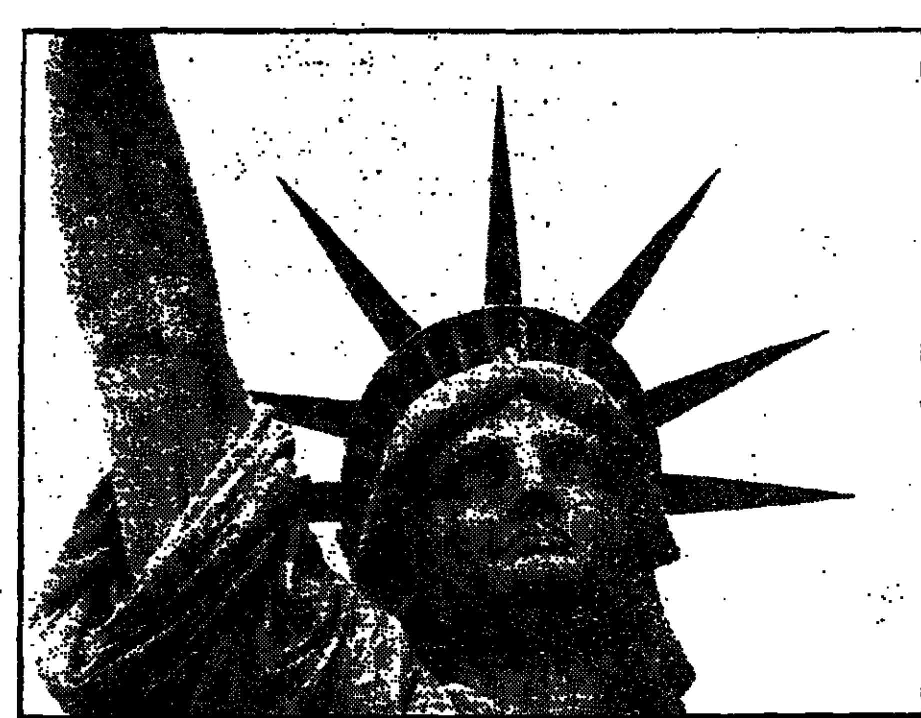


هكذا من الأصل

A SPECIAL REPORT

Travel in America





...ome faces of America . . . a high school football match in Detroit; at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington Uncle Sam holds all that was left of project Vanguard, the first American space launch, which crashed seconds after lift-off in 1957; the Statue of Liberty offering a welcome to New York. *Photographs: Richard and Sally Greenhill, Brian Harris.*

A four-week trip converts a reluctant wife

On and off, I suppose I must have spent the better part of a year attempting to persuade my wife to share a holiday with me in the United States. Her vision of that great country, like that of so many others, had been coloured by the television screen. She was convinced that murder and mayhem stalked the city streets, despite the valiant efforts of men like Starsky and Hutch; that the food offered was abominable; that all that was old and architecturally beautiful had been swept aside by the huge and hideous; that the countryside was polluted by hoardings and highways and hamburger stands and all the other horrors trailed in the wake of ever-advancing technology.

Towards the end of that year of persuasion she flew out to meet me in Los Angeles. We spent the next four weeks travelling more than 4,000 miles by car and many additional miles by air. As the month drew to a close, and at a time when we would normally be telling each other how nice it would be to get home and see the cat, she said she would like to stay on—possibly, even to emigrate. This volte face was brought about by a number of factors, some of which are listed below.

Food. The best of the New World's food is very fine indeed, be it New England clam chowder, New Orleans gumbo, or just plain old New York hamburger. In the big cities it is possible to obtain every imaginable dish, in any cuisine. Outside the main centres meals tend to be plain, wholesome and somewhat unimaginative, with the staple diet consisting of beef, chicken and fish. Americans raise sheep and pigs by the thousand but lamb, mutton and pork are hard to find, at least in the South and Southwest.

However, breakfasts are universally superb, sandwiches come giant-sized, coffee is cheap and apparently limitless, the ubiquitous salads are a delight, nearly all main courses are freshly prepared, and fruit is always available. At dinner, expect to be invited to start with salad, to which you help yourself from the restaurant salad bar, or soup. The main course is then served, usually with chips ("French fries") or baked potato, seldom with English-style green vegetables.

Try having a good breakfast then fasting until dinner time. Portions at all meals are enormous. Ask for, say, one club sandwich and two plates, so that you can share it with your travelling companion. Americans do not seem to mind cost-cutting exercises of this kind.

Drink. For goodness' sake do not ask for tea unless you want the iced or lemon variety. A pot of tea for two consists of a stainless steel container full of hot (not boiling) water and a couple of tea bags lying alongside (not in) it. Stick to coffee, which is delicious. Cold drinks, soft or alcoholic, are frequently served in glasses which are one-third filled with ice. Beer always comes ice cold and is generally preferred to wine, although many of the Californian wines are delicious, cheap and underrated. Do try the cocktails, which come in hundreds of varieties and are often potent.

Some areas have barely moved out of the prohibition era where alcohol is concerned. The Mormon state of Utah, for example, is dry, as are many counties in unlikely, he-man places like Texas and Kansas. This does not mean that you cannot get a drink. Buy your liquor in a store, take it into a restaurant, and ask for a "set-up". You are then charged for the glass in which to put it, the ice with which to cool it, and the tonic water, soda, or whatever with which to dilute it.

Travel. Most Americans move around their country by aeroplane or car. The tourist is not obliged to follow their lead. Passenger trains still link most of the important cities, but they travel at a leisurely pace. If you have plenty of time and want to get a good view of the countryside at ground level then try them.

Amtrak, operated by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and represented in Britain by Thomas Cook, offers an impressive network of services in the north-eastern states, but these thin out considerably west of the Mississippi. It sells a USA Rail pass for unlimited travel over its tracks; if bought in Britain before leaving, charges are $200 for seven days and $500 for 30, with concessions for children and spouses.

Coach services of organizations like Greyhound or Trailways are a cheap and efficient way of getting from A to B, or even Z. Greyhound, which has offices in Cockspur Street, London, is advertising its Ameripass again this year. The standard season fare, available all the year, ranges from $149 for seven days to $325 for 30 days and buys unlimited travel on all the company's extensive United States and Canadian networks.

Air travel is cheap by European standards, particularly for those who buy a rover-type ticket on this side of the Atlantic before leaving. Many of these enable the visitor to fly anywhere as many times as he wishes over a fixed period of weeks. Getting aboard an aircraft in the United States is like boarding a bus in Britain: formalities are kept to a minimum—and the services are usually on time.

Driving. An ability to drive is not essential, but it is highly desirable. Short-distance public transport of the European variety is conspicuous by its absence. Car rental firms such as Hertz offer first-class vehicles, usually less than a year old, at fairly low prices. Gas, as petrol is known, costs about 50p for an American gallon, which is four-fifths of an Imperial gallon.

The cheapest way of hiring a car is probably through a travel agent, in package form, before leaving Britain. Round-tripping is generally more economic than picking a car up in one city and leaving it in another. Cars can be hired in one state and left in another, but the cost of travelling mounts rapidly. As a guide, Hertz is offering off-peak Ford Escort-type cars this year for seven days at $130, with no charge for the number of miles travelled if the car is returned to the location at which it was picked up.

Many Americans favour RVs, or recreational vehicles, which enable them to cook and sleep in the vehicle. There is an abundance of camping sites throughout America, equipped with power points, water and toilet facilities, and every other conceivable mod con. If you do hire, make sure you understand the controls before you set off. Find out where the petrol filler cap is before you drive away: often it is concealed behind the licence plate.

Clothing. Travel light, particularly if visiting the South or South-west. Summer temperatures are high, and since Americans seldom dress formally there is no point in carting around a great deal of luggage. Those staying at hotels or motels will find it easy to wash the lighter garments as they go. A pullover or light jacket may be needed inside buildings or even in cars and coaches, because of the air conditioning.

Entertainment. America has facilities for every conceivable sport and pastime. Its superb national and state parks offer irresistible opportunities for hikers and campers ("backpackers" is the American term). Huntin', shootin' and fishin' types will be given short shrift in these nature reserves, but there are hundreds of other areas available for such activities.

In the summer months, states like Colorado and Utah take parties on "white water" expeditions in the foaming rivers, or offer would-be aeronauts hang-gliding sessions in the mountains; in the winter, some of the world's best skiing facilities can be enjoyed at places like Aspen and Vail in Colorado, or Park City and Sundance, Utah.

Since the end of the war Americans have become increasingly conscious of their historical heritage. Old buildings and whole areas of towns have been restored,

continued on next page

More airlines, more destinations and a wide range of fares

As a result of the Bermuda II air services agreement recently negotiated between Britain and the United States, holidaymakers going to the latter country during 1981 will have a bigger selection of both airlines and destination airports than ever before.

Bermuda II, which was a radical redrawing of the agreement which had been in force since the end of the Second World War, opened to all-comers routes across the North Atlantic which had been the traditional preserve of the three big airlines—British Airways, and its predecessors, PanAm and Trans World, and a few smaller ones.

Now there is not only a vast range of carriers and "gateways", but a wide choice of fares—from £77 standby to £837 by the supersonic Concorde—both from London to New York.

At a rough count, there are 14 airlines flying out of Britain to more than 30 destinations in the United States this summer. British Airways has by far the largest number of gateways and will be offering about two million seats on board its fleet of Boeing 747 jumbos.

The British Airways routes from Heathrow—although a few flights go by way of Manchester and Prestwick, Scotland—are to New York, Anchorage, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, with New Orleans to be added in May.

Standby single fares and advance purchase excursions (Apex) fares, the two most often taken up by leisure travellers, cost respectively New York £77 and £185, Anchorage £90 and £245, Boston £82 and £185, Chicago £110 and 259, Detroit £110 and £259, Los Angeles £108 and £269, San Francisco £113 and £269, Miami £81 and £203, Philadelphia £90 and £206, Seattle £105 and £245, and Washington £90 and £206.

Super Apex must be booked 21 days in advance of travel, while the stay in the United States has to be between seven days and six months. Quarter of the fare is forfeited in the case of cancellation. Children go for half the adult fare, and infants for 10 per cent.

British Caledonian will be offering a total of 425,000 seats on flights to its four United States destinations—Houston, Atlanta, St Louis and Dallas—Fort Worth—and its new stop at San Juan, Puerto Rico, this summer. Like most of the airlines operating out of Britain, British Caledonian offers a range of package holidays based on its scheduled flights. Charter flights across the Atlantic have been almost superseded by the scheduled form of travel.

The cost of these packages includes the air travel between Gatwick and an American gateway airport, a hire car with unlimited milage, and vouchers for accommodation in a motel chain. Blue Sky, the British Caledonian subsidiary which arranges these holidays, books the first night's accommodation and thereafter it is left to the holidaymaker to plan his own itinerary and to book the following night's room ahead by telephone.

Sample prices per person, with two sharing a room, over 14 days through the Atlanta gateway are: May 1 to June 2, £448, July 15 to September 29, £495. Prices for journeys through the Dallas and Houston gateways are: May 1 to June 2, £477, July 15 to September 29, £527. Through the Orlando gateway prices are: May 1 to June 2, £470, July 15 to September 29, £520.

As well as a choice of airlines and destinations in the United States, passengers this year will have a wide choice, whether they travel from Heathrow or Gatwick airports: British Airways, Pan Am and TWA all use Heathrow, as do Air-India and the Israeli airline El Al, both of which have services to New York.

But because of a government ruling that all new services started under the Bermuda II agreement should operate into Gatwick, to take some of the overcrowding pressure off Heathrow, there are now seven American airlines offering services from there, in addition to British Caledonian and Laker Airways, the airline of Sir Freddie Laker, the father of cut-price Atlantic air travel.

The airlines are: Delta, with a service to Atlanta; Pan Am, to Houston; Northwest Orient, to Minneapolis/St Paul and Boston; Western, to Anchorage and Honolulu, and from April to Denver and Las Vegas; Braniff, to Dallas/Fort Worth; Air Florida, To Miami; and World, to Washington/Baltimore.

Laker operates Skytrain services to New York, Los Angeles and Miami and is to start flights to Tampa.

Out of Heathrow, Pan Am flies to New York, Washington, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Detroit; and TWA to New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Pittsburg.

The service of a reliable travel agent is recommended for intending holidaymakers seeking to find a way through this mass of options and also through the fares maze which, on the North Atlantic, is equally daunting. There are big bargains to be had over the Atlantic. Such is the competition between the air lines that fares have been kept artificially low to the extent that between them they made a loss on the routes last year.

Early booking is also recommended for those who can be sure of their holiday plans, for not only will there be far more choice of seats and prices but the cash customer has a better chance of striking a deal which avoids any fuel surcharges which may come later in the summer. "Bucket shops"—cut-price travel agents—offer seats on scheduled flights at large discounts.

Mr Riaz Doolty, who has four bucket shops in London, has suggested that the rules covering the sale of cheap tickets should be changed, as, he alleges, 45 airlines openly flout them. There is little doubt that some of the big airlines, worried about the undercutting of their prices, are prepared to do cut-price deals themselves. Passengers would be wise to ensure they receive a valid ticket before paying money in this market sector.

British Airways claims that it is offering the cheapest fare to the United States with its £77 standby to New York, but Sir Freddie Laker is close on the heels of the state corporation with a "walk-on" ticket for £78. And, as Sir Freddie frequently points out in his advertising campaign, passengers may book his fare up to eight days in advance and do not have to hang about airports waiting to see if they can obtain a seat, as is the case with standby.

Laker also offers a super economy single fare which can be booked any time in advance for £92 single, and an excursion, which must be booked at least 21 days before travel, costing £286 return in the peak summer period. To Los Angeles the comparable fares are, £109 for the walk-on, £134 and £372.

Jetsave, the British travel operator, is offering 440,000 seats to and from North America this year, under flight agreements worth more than £50m with British Airways, Transamerica Airlines, Western Airlines and CP Air. Its prices for inclusive holidays begin at £175 for a stay of seven nights in New York and include a stay of 13 nights in Hawaii for from £459.

The company also offers a week cruising in the Caribbean on board the Cunard Countess and a week in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for £659, including return flights from Britain.

Jetsave also has "fly-drive" holidays in the United States. The cheapest of these costs £226, including return air travel, car rental and the first night's accommodation. One package deal enables holidaymakers to pick up their vehicle at Los Angeles and leave it on the east coast after driving it across the country.

The same company has recently launched a "fly now, pay later" scheme under which intending holidaymakers to the United States can obtain holidays and flights to a value of £1,200 on credit subscription terms. The scheme is operated in association with Citibank Trust. Subscribers make monthly payments of between £20 and £100 and are then entitled to credit of up to 12 times their subscription.

Credit for full payment of a 1981 holiday is available at once on joining the scheme. Interest equivalent to an annual rate of 10 per cent is paid on any credit balance in the account, while interest is charged on debits at 2 per cent a month, which is equivalent to an annual rate of 26.8 per cent.

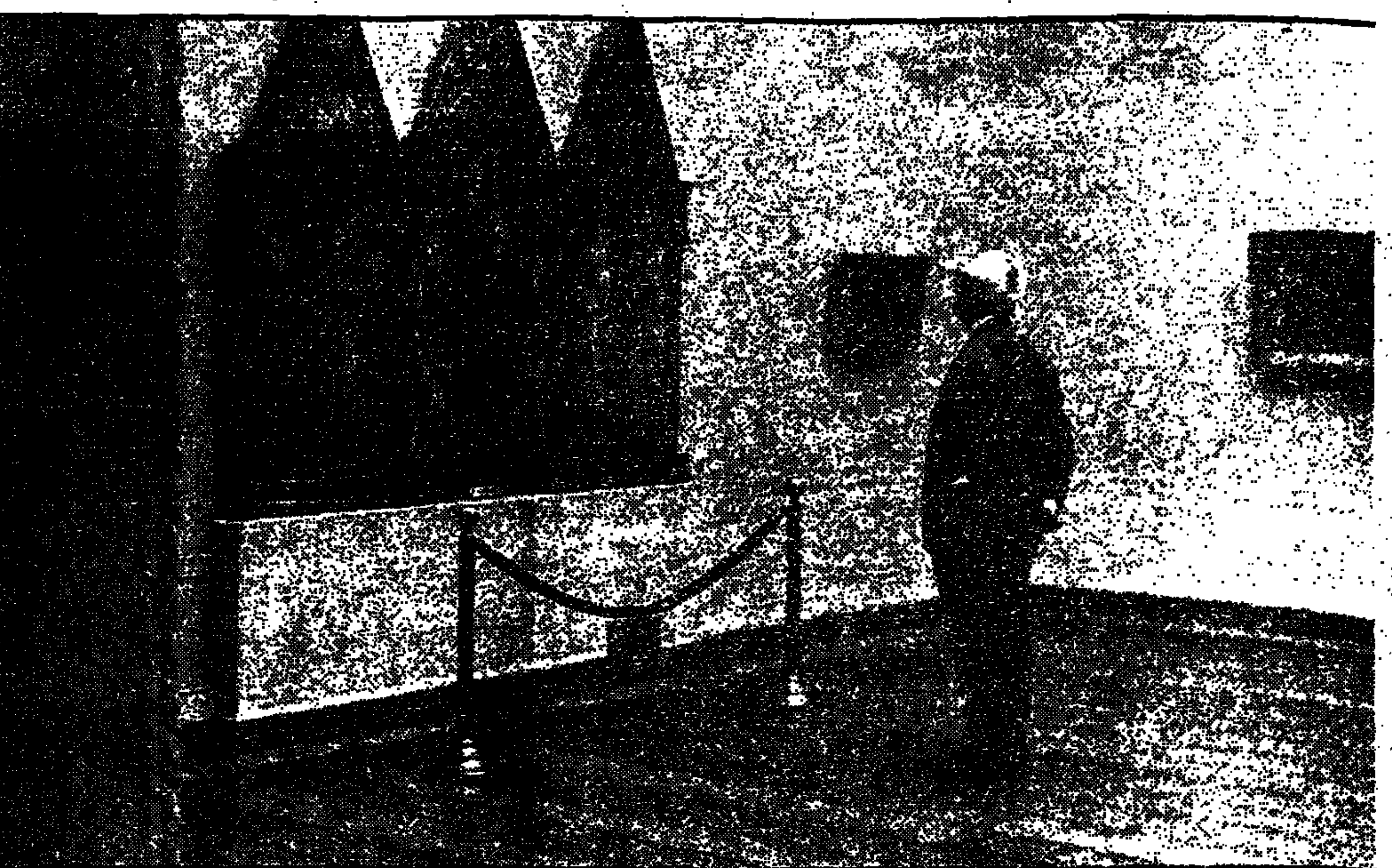
Mr Reg Pycroft, founder and managing director of Jetsave, said: "Holidays are now the most important annual purchase in most households, ranking above such things as new cars and furniture. We believe this scheme will be a great help for those who wish to go on holiday but find the immediate bill a strain in these recessionary times."

Cruising, and particularly out of the ports in Florida, is becoming increasingly popular, and many of the package deals offered by the airlines flying from Britain to the United States this year include this form of holiday. Cunard has an arrangement with British Airways under which it is possible to travel to New York on the liner QE2, a voyage which takes five days, and then fly home. The cost of the round trip starts at £520.

Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Museums

As good as the French but better organized



Everyone knows about the great American art depositories. The *Metropolitan* Museum of Art in New York is surpased only by the Louvre, the National Gallery in Washington is comparable to the National Gallery in London and Chicago and Boston have enormous and splendid art galleries.

New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia and Boston, like London and Paris, have a multiplicity of museums, including the Frick and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Freer and the Hirshhorn in Washington, the Gardner in Boston and the Fogg in Harvard, across the river. Local museums in smaller places often contain important treasures, like French provincial museums, though *they are invariably much* better organized.

In New England, for instance, Manchester, New Hampshire, a boring little mill town, has a fine art gallery containing a Tiepolo, a fine Monet, a Constable and works by Greuze, Tintoretto and Dégas. In Williamstown, in north-west Massachusetts, is the Clark Institute which has a large collection of Impressionists, a *Piero della Francesca* Madonna and Child, and the second finest collection of silver in the United States (the best is in Boston).

The big cities with big and important galleries include Houston, Detroit, Pittsburg, Kansas City and Cleveland, whose other charms are not immediately apparent to visitors. More attractive *cities with important museums* include Philadelphia, St Louis, Baltimore, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New Haven (Yale). They are all large, rich and eclectic collections.

In Philadelphia, for instance, there is a large collection of the Impressionists and the most important collection of the works of Marcel Duchamp, including "Nue Descendant un Escalier". There is a separate Rodin Museum, the finest apart from the Musée Rodin in Paris, and the Barnes Collection.

The Barnes, situated in a suburb called Merion, has the finest collection of Cézannes and Matisses in North America and the most *preposterous rules concerning visitors*: it is closed in July and August, is open on Fridays and Saturdays only (9.30 to 4.30) and Sundays (1 to 4.30). You should get there at opening time or book.

Always telephone small museums before visiting: they have many quirks of opening times. They are often closed on Mondays and a few shut for whole months in the summer.

The famous galleries in the big cities mentioned above are worth separate journeys. The best view of Detroit is from Canada, across the river: drive out through the horrible inner suburbs to the art museum, which has a huge and marvellous collection, including a famous La Tour, for instance, and the I Rivera murals of the assembly line.

The J. Paul Getty Mus in Malibu, a suburb of Angeles, is the richest in world. Before the pric oil doubled last year, it dowment was worth than $800m. It some interesting mate especially French e eenth century furniture, a serious problem: how it spend $2m a week?

Space and light er **visitors to the Nati Gallery of Art in Wash ton DC to appreciate finer points of pric exhibits.**

Patrick Brog

Parks

Excitement starts at the Rocky Mountains

The tourist often flies to see the skyscrapers of New York, the jazz clubs of New Orleans, and the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco, and misses the awesome and magnificent natural treasures of the American nation. The national and state parks cover millions of square miles, from the Everglade swamps of Florida to the ice-fields of Alaska, from the lush mountainous pastures of Montana to the harsh desert of Arizona.

No tourist can hope, even in a dozen American holidays, to see all the parks: I shall describe my favourites. They are wonderfully looked after by the National Park Service, with excellent roads and hiking trails and all modern conveniences. There are camping grounds and inexpensive lodges (and some top-class hotels here and there), and shops, petrol stations, restaurants, and public transport in many of the parks.

There are no shortages of parks on the east coast, and thousands of people flock each summer to those in Maine and New Hampshire (Boston is the closest airport, and from there one may rent a car), and New York state; or out into the countryside of Pennsylvania and down the Blue Ridge mountains of West Virginia and through Cumberland Gap and on southwards. But for me the true excitement of the parks starts at the Rocky Mountains.

Denver is the logical base to rent a car and set forth for mountain country. The Rocky Mountain National Park offers splendid hikes and walks and is certainly worth a couple of days. The best place to stay is just at the entrance to the park in Estes Park, about 65 miles from Denver: it has a great variety of hotels, motels and restaurants. A hearty German meal can be had at the Edel Haus; and if you get the right room you can have a fine view from The Inn at Estes Park. The park service arranges lots of guided walks and hikes.

There are two separate and exciting routes to take from this park. If one drives through the park and on to the west, then about four or five hours after leaving Estes Park one can stop for a couple of hours at Dinosaur National Park in northern Utah to see some stunning excavations, and from there across into Wyoming, where after a long ride and an overnight stay en route, one can arrive at Jackson Hole. This small town also has an airport with service from Denver and Salt Lake City.

Now this is the frontier West, home of saloons and turn-of-the-century cowboy melodramas at the Pink Garter theatre and the location too of the Grand Teton mountains. There are modern hotels in Teton village, but there is more summer fun to be had driving north of Jackson and camping or staying at one of the lodges in Teton National Park. For even the novice the horse riding there with local cowboys is great fun, as is the rafting and the hiking within constant view of the peaks of the Teton mountains. The accommodation is good in this park, but you must book early and confirm reservations.

Farther north you reach Yellowstone National Park. It lacks the relaxing beauty of Rocky Mountain or Teton parks and is much more the place to come for just a couple of days to see geology in action, exploding, smelling and changing constantly as you watch. The hotels are run down and the restaurants leave much to be desired.

Yellowstone is a huge park with more than 300 miles of roads. Perhaps the best place to stay is at Old Faithful geyser and make a couple of day trips from there to the Yellowstone Canyon and to Hot Springs. Finally, you can drive out of the park to the north and head for the Glacier National Park of Montana.

For me this park and Yosemite in California are the two great romantic parks, where one feels one can walk for days, ever turning to look at new magic vistas, smelling new plants and the lively trees and carefully watching all manner of little animals scurrying about. These are parks for picnics and easy-going mountain walks and waterfalls.

There are fine hotels in Glacier and transport between them by means of 1930s' Swiss mountain buses. The "Going to the Sun" highway pans the park and offers one of the most memorable scenic drives to be found anywhere in the United States, but large caravans are banned. The nearest big city for air service is Great Falls, Montana, and from there bus and train services go to Glacier.

If you drive south of Estes Park across Colorado quite different experiences aw you. The last stop bef the deserts is the stunn Mesa Verde park n Cortez and Durango. Th are Indian pueblo ruins k and restored in excell fashion and certainly wort trip. Book early and can stay overnight at Mesa Verde Lodge, wh saves a lot of travel.

A tour directly south take you to my favou small canyon in Ameri Canyon de Chelly, wh a Nauajo Indian gu will drive you along canyon floor on a trip y will never forget for sheer excitement and beau

In California is the Yo mite National Park and j to its south, Sequ National Park. Yosem offers everything from hi mountains to low, l valleys, from rough ca sites to the elegant Ahw nee Hotel. You could spe a month or two there, s ing the biggest trees in world and going on lo walks and never be bor But book early.

Frank Vo

A four-week trip converts a reluctant wife

continued from previous page

renovated or even reconstructed as they were in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. All that unbeatable transatlantic flair for showmanship has gone into such projects, as it has into the presentation of exhibits in the museums. Many early railways have been maintained in working order, and it is still possible to take a covered wagon holiday in states like Kansas and Texas.

Much of the entertainment, particularly in big cities like New York, Chicago and San Francisco, is free. Even dams, like the huge one that straddles the Colorado River between Utah and Page, Arizona, offer free self-guided tours.

Accommodation. By European standards, American accommodation is luxurious. Hotels like the Utah in Salt Like City, the Brown Palace in Denver, and Chicago's Drake are among the finest in the world, and their charges, given the quality of service and facilities offered, are very low. At the Drake an impeccable room for two starts at $71 a night.

There are few "bed and breakfast" signs. Instead, Americans stay at motels, which are cheap, clean and offer all that is needed for an overnight stay. In 1980, prices in the western states averaged about $21 a night for two. Often this price bought a room with two large beds.

Booking is not usually a problem, except in the peak holiday periods or in the national parks. There are so many motels that a room of some kind can usually be found on arrival. It is also possible to book ahead, by telephone, although there is a risk of finding the room gone if arrival is later than 6 pm; but most motel keepers will hold the room if the visitor rings to say he is on his way.

Money. Although the system has taken a bit of a knock in recent years, America remains a largely cashless society, thanks to its peculiar banking laws. Major credit cards like American Express, Visa, Master Charge and Diners Club are accepted all over the country, although Amex is unlikely to buy supplies of petrol at gas stations. Access can be used with almost no difficulty, provided the card holder points out that it is linked with Master Charge—and the latter is taken at most petrol stations.

Apart from plastic money, travellers' cheques are widely used and present no difficulty, particularly if they are as well known as American Express and are drawn in fairly small denominations. Those in the region of $50 can readily be used for paying for meals; the change comes in handy for tips and small cash purchases. With shopkeepers and restaurant owners so willing to take such tender, there is no need to go to a bank for change. (£=$2.40.)

While most things in the United States are cheap by European standards, payment for medical services can be ruinously expensive. It is not wise, therefore, to ignore insurance. Several companies, and organizations like BUPA, offer cover at varying rates.

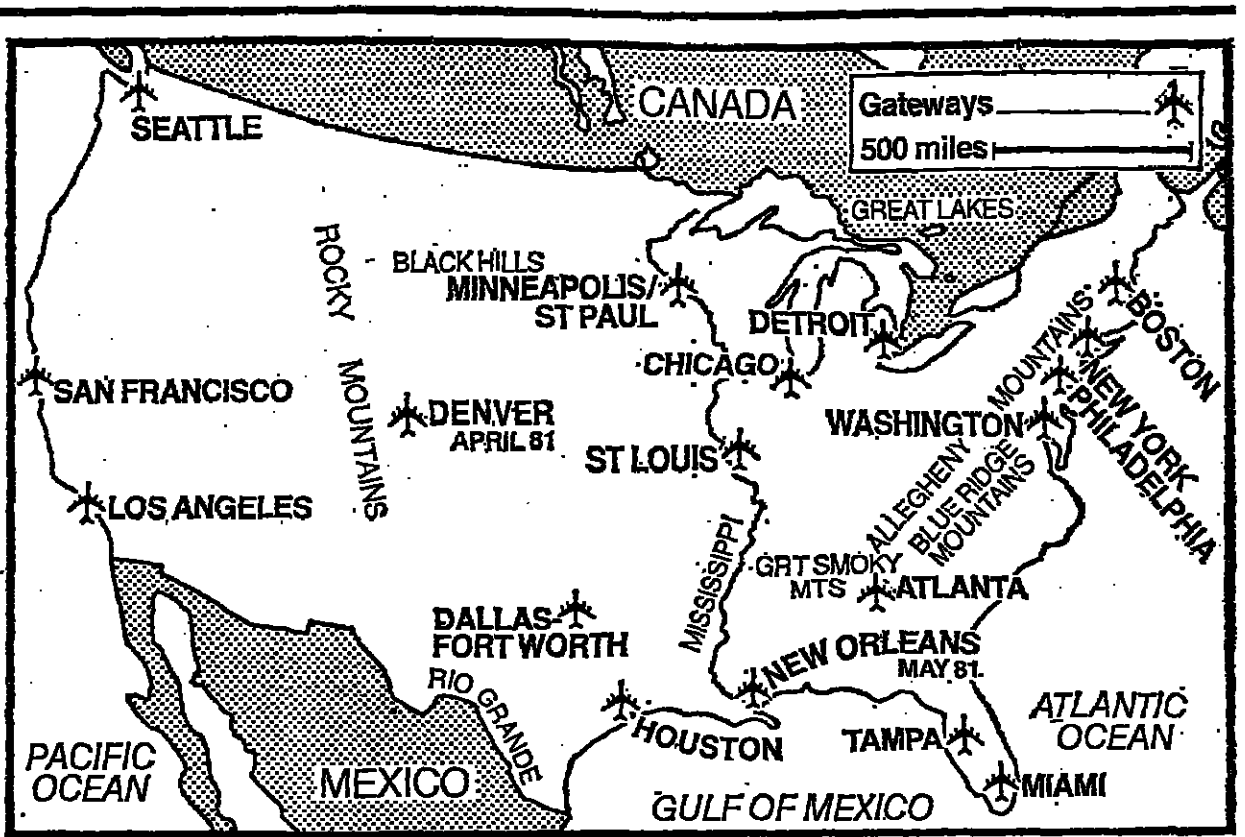
As an example, most members of the Association of British Travel Agents will quote to purchasers of Apex tickets a charge of £19 a person for cover up to six months. This safeguards the traveller against medical expenses up to £50,000, loss of baggage up to £600, loss of personal money up to £200, and a host of other potential calamities.

Finally, do travel light. Almost everything you might think you will need en route can be purchased as cheaply, if not cheaper, on arrival, be it clothing, films or tobacco. America will supply any type of goods, any service, to those who can pay for it, almost at any time of the day or night.

What kind of welcome awaits you? To say "the warmest" is grossly to understate. Americans, particularly in the West and the South, exude a hospitality and generosity to foreigners, and particularly to Britons, that is at times almost embarrassing. You will come back feeling that you have more friends across the Atlantic than you have in your own country; and so low is the cost of travelling to and through the States nowadays, I guarantee that you will be only too willing to take up the Texan and Southerners' wish that "y'all come back again—real soon".

Dennis Topping

On the following pages the United States is divided into areas which can be reached from the major direct flight 'gateway' airports. Times writers give examples of places to see, things to do, ways to travel for a short or long stay



Gateways: Los Angeles . . .

Balmy weather—and a touch of the tinsel

Los Angeles, aficionados of San Francisco notwithstanding, *is really the international gateway to the West Coast.* Its fame as a city, forgetting the film studios, Disneyland and all its more obvious tourist attractions, rests on its balmy weather and its superb variety of different holiday environments within easy *drive of the city.*

In two hours you can be in the desert, say at Palm *Springs*, a *resort* oasis of swimming pools, tennis courts and golf courses with temperatures in the summer unbearable, hovering around 110°, but *in* the winter a delightful 80° or so.

An equal drive will take you to alpine communities like Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear, 7,000ft up in the mountains with crystal clear *lakes*, pine trees and chalets. Half an hour from Los Angeles airport are some of *the finest beaches in the* world, including Santa Monica, a 1930-style seaside community which seems to be the magnet for British tourists, and houses Los Angeles's largest British population in exile. Southern California has about 350,000 Britons at last count.

It is undeniable, however, that for many, Los Angeles's chief attraction is its *touch of the tinsel. It has* film studios, streets familar to television viewers as the locale for just about every show they see on the home screens, and the opportunity in the more rarified atmo*sphere of Beverley Hills* to spot Doris Day pedalling around on her bicycle, or *Zsa Zsa* Gabor popping out *of her* Rolls on the fashionable Rodeo Drive to pick up something to wear. The *bolder* tourist, for the price of a cocktail, can pop along to the Polo Lounge of the *Beverley Hills Hotel and* spot anyone from Rex Harrison to Gene Kelly supping with their agents.

A mandatory visit is to Disneyland, 30 miles from the centre of Los Angeles, and accessible by car or bus. Families with children who want to make a holiday *out of Disneyland, in itself*, might consider booking into the Disneyland Hotel, or more modestly into any of the assortment of motels that ring the park in Anaheim. The Universal Studio tour is a pre-packaged, predigested glimpse of how and where the movies and television *shows* are made. Marineland of the Pacific is an exciting aquatic theme *park on the outskirts of Los* Angeles, 45-minutes to an hour's drive; from there you can venture to Long Beach and tread the decks of the refurbished Queen Mary.

A delightful two-hour boat *trip will* take you to Catalina Island, whose capital, Avalon, has not changed in 50 years. The island, owned by the Wrigley chewing gum family, is the perfect spot for children and you can stay there in a variety of hotels, but these are scarce and should be *booked in advance. In case* of problems the boat goes back to the mainland every evening and there are air and helicopter connexions as well. It is a treat that too many tourists overlook.

The cheapest free show in Los Angeles is to be found in the Venice boardwalk *every Sunday, with its roller* skaters, jugglers, bikini-clad bicyclists, joggers mingling, with buskers, street vendors, beggars, antique and art sellers. It is a movable bohemian feast, completely different from the sometimes plastic over-hygienic South California environment that surrounds it and it all takes place along miles of white sandy *beaches fringed with palm* trees.

For the culture oriented visitor, despite the feeling abroad that Los Angeles is a city of barbarians, there are several superior art museums—the County Museum of Art, the Getty Museum in Malibu, a recreation of a Roman *Villa with a superb* collection of classical sculpture and French furniture, the *Norton Simon Museum* and the Huntington Hartford Museum, both in Pasadena, both with world-class collec*tions.*

For the music and theatre lover there is the Los Angeles Music Centre, a complex of two theatres and a concert hall for which the money and the energy was supplied by Dorothy Chandler, wife of the late publishers of the *Los Angeles Times*. The Los Angeles Philharmonic, one of the world's great orchestras, now under the direction of Carlo Maria Guilini, plays its season at the Music Centre in winter and the Hollywood Bowl in summer. No holiday in Los Angeles is complete without an evening picnic and Bowl concert.

If you base yourself in Los Angeles and rent a car on unlimited milage (still the best way to see the country) you can easily take in San Diego and La Jolla, 120 miles to the south (two-and-a-half hours easy drive), which boasts Sea World, a huge aquatic park, the Scripps Institute of Oceano*graphy, the Salk Institute* for Medical Research (Dr Jonas Salk is the discoverer af the polio vaccine), a superb modern art museum and an interesting campus of the University of California. In San Diego there is an old town, a colourful Mexican shopping bazaar *with multiple restaurants* and shopping stores and not to be missed is Coronado Island—*now connected* to the mainland by a bridge—which boasts one of America's finest old hotels, the Victorian Coronado, where legend has it the Duke of Windsor first set eyes on Mrs Simpson.

For a grittier experience there is the cross-border *trip from San Diego into* Mexico's border town of Tijuana with its street markets, its native colour and unfortunately its grime, poverty, vice and squalor. It is simply a tourist trap and should never be viewed as representative of what Mexico has to offer. It is advis*able to park on the Ameri*can side and walk over the border.

It is an acceptable drive from Los Angeles to San Francisco, with some supero scenery along the way, and if you are driving north from Los Angeles there are some interesting stops along the way, Santa Barbara for example, a beautiful old Spanish town. Lunch on the terrace of the magnificent *Old Biltmore Hotel is not to* be missed—lunch is reasonable, the view is priceless. *A half-hour farther north is* Solvang, an entirely Danish community in the green rolling countryside of the Santa Yner Valley, complete with tourist shops and restaurants.

But perhaps the most interesting stop on the way to San Francisco is the house *that William Randolph* Hearst built on the top of a mountain at San Simeon. The place is a palace jammed with art, antiques and the kind of opulence that no one, not even monarchs, can afford anymore. Three different tours *of the estate are offered. In* summer visitors should book well in advance through a ticket agency. The castle is operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreations and a letter to the agency at San Simeon, California will elicit a brochure about the tours well *worth studying in advance.*

San Simeon is almost half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. If you are leery of freeway driving there are other ways to get around, even in this carbound society. Amtrak, the national train service, runs a train called the Coast Starlight every day all the way from Los Angeles to Seattle—a 30-hour trip. For San Francisco visitors, the train stops at Oakland on the other side of the bay and there is a bus connex*ion—a 30-minute ride—to* the centre of San Francisco.

The Starlight leaves Los Angeles at 10 am and deposits San Francisco passengers at 8.25 pm. It travels along the picturesque coastline for some 200 miles, then goes inland at San Luis Obispo through the *Steinbeck country* and the farmlands of the Salinas Valley.

During peak holiday times the train is heavily overbooked so trips should be planned well in advance. The train has a restaurant car and snack bars and the one way fare to San Fran*cisco is $34*. Passengers continuing all the way up the coast to Seattle can take a ferry from there into Vancouver, Canada. And for the more adventurous with more time there is the Alaska railway, which will eventually deposit you at Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America.

Train trips from Los *Angeles can also be taken* to the Las Vegas gambling halls—a 50-minute aircraft trip, or a five-and-a-half hour drive, but closer to seven hours by train. The Desert Wind train then goes on from *Vegas* to *Salt Lake* City, the bastion of Mormonism and gateway in the *winter to some of the* country's best skiing slopes.

Amtrak also runs a train to the Grand Canyon (actually it goes to Flagstaff, Arizona, with a bus connexion to the canyon). As *in Britain, Amtrak* offers an unlimited travel pass (USA Rail pass)—great value *if you plan to use the rails* a lot. A sleeper on the train to the Grand Canyon will cost you $36.50 extra.

Most British visitors come in search of the sun but for the ski crowd the favourable rate of exchange makes a winter holiday there more and more attractive. Skiing *is as close as two hours* from Los Angeles, or farther away in the mountains of Utah and Colorado. There are a variety of ski package holidays out of Los Angeles which can be booked in advance.

For summer travel do not overlook the West Coast by *Greyhound* bus, via its unlimited travel, 30-day Ameripass. You do not have to worry about the price of petrol (actually a bargain for Britons at $1.25 a gallon) wear and tear on the *driver* or the chance of accidents. The buses are air conditioned, carry their own *lavatories* and it is by far the cheapest way to travel.

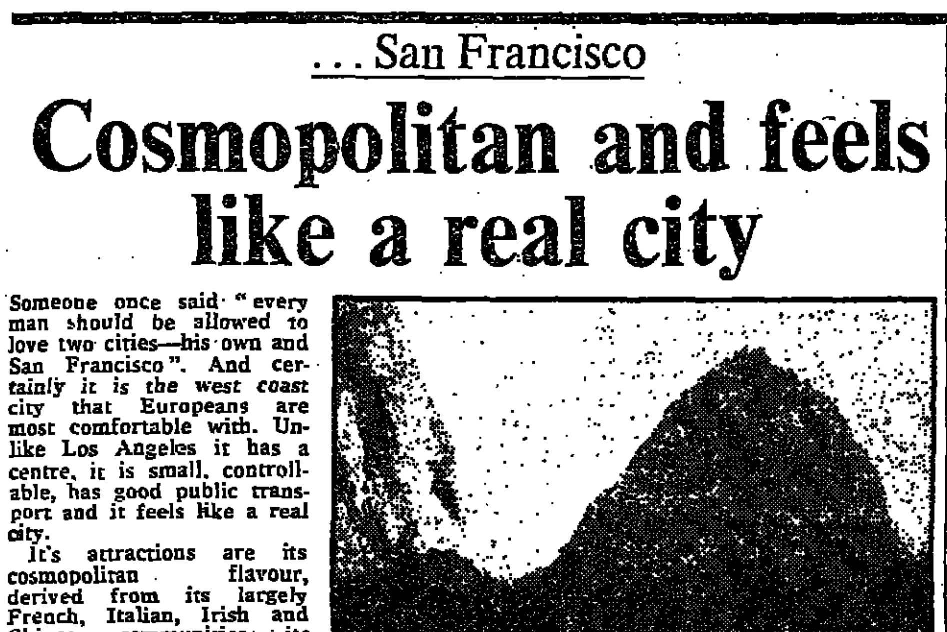
Ivor Davis



The Venice boardwalk, the cheapest free show in Los Angeles.

. . . San Francisco

Cosmopolitan and feels like a real city





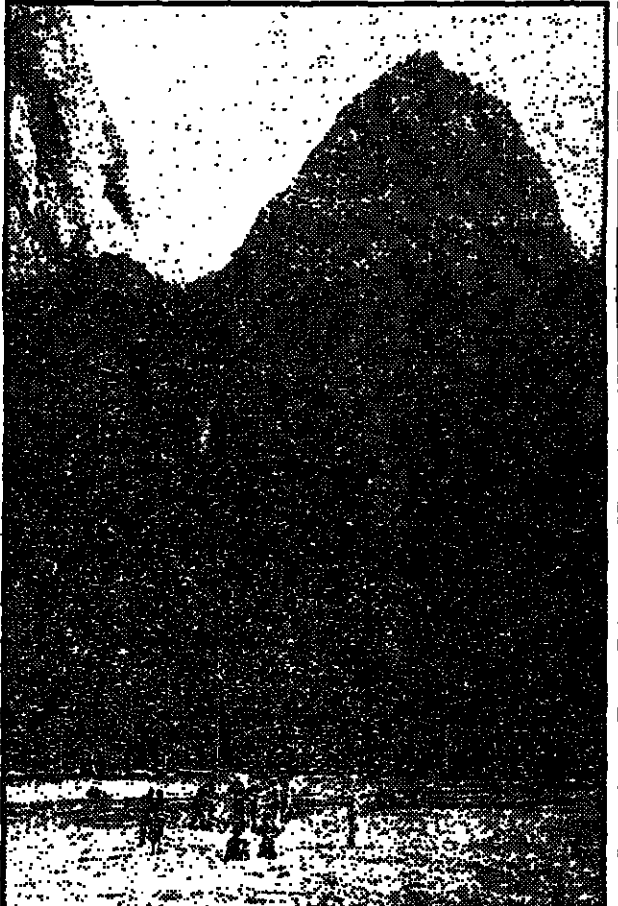
Someone once said "every man should be allowed to love two cities—his own and San Francisco". And cer*tainly it is the west coast* city that Europeans are most comfortable with. Unlike Los Angeles it has a centre, it is small, controllable, has good public transport and it feels like a real city.

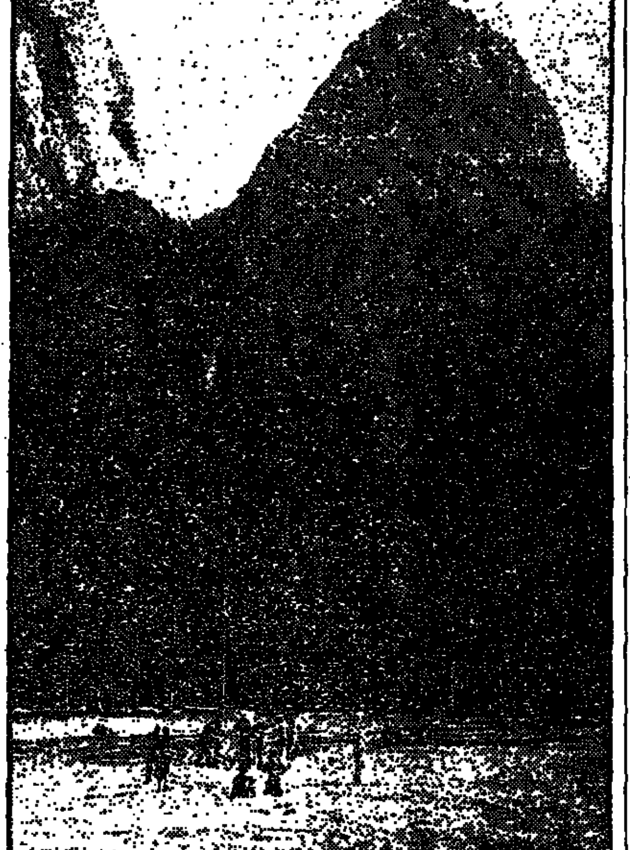
It's attractions are its cosmopolitan flavour, derived from its largely French, Italian, Irish and Chinese communities, its beautiful position on the hills surrounding the Bay, its Golden Gate Bridge, one of the world's engineering marvels and its wonderful food.

It is also much cooler than Los Angeles. You can still ride its national landmark, the cable car, though *they* are *inclined to be* creaky these days and to break down. San Francisco and Los Angeles are both in California—that is about as much as they have in common. Residents reserve the same affection for each other as that displayed between the denizens of Edin*burgh and Glasgow.*

Hotel accommodation in San Francisco varies widely—from the Nob Hill luxury rooms, through a marvellous collection of smaller Victorian hotels with grace and charm and convenient location to the more plastic motels that *ring the city.*

One of the chief points of interest within the confines of the city is Fisherman's Wharf, a creaky but fun cable car ride from Union Square, where the fishing fleets unload their catches into the cauldrons of the Italian-run seafood restaurants that *ring the wharf.* Next to them is the Cannery, an updated warehouse-style arcade of galleries, shops and restaurants and across town is another fashionable shopping arcade, Ghiradelli Square.





About 200 miles south of *San Francisco is Yosemite* National Park.

San Francisco's Chinatown is the most colourful *and authentic in* America with the best and most reasonably-priced restaurants. Telegraph Hill is the Bohemian section of the city, once the home of artists, it was then passed through by the beatniks and the flower children and now is undergoing a renaissance and *is a mish-mash of* expensive apartments and *rickety little cabins.*

For the culturally inclined *there is the opera*, in season, the New Symphony Hall, the California Palace of the Legion of Honour—a repository of French art with a magnificent view *of the* Bay—and the Palace of Fine Arts on the edge of a *natural lagoon* in the Marina district.

The city is justly renowned for its food, with far and away the best French, Italian, Chinese and

continued on next page

Gateways: Seattle...

The great outdoors

One of the major gateways to Alaska bills itself proudly as "the most livable city in America"—and that means clean air, pure water and uncrowded roads.

Compared to Los Angeles county—with its more than seven million residents—Seattle, with just over half a million, is a small town. For those looking for a great outdoors holiday, there is plenty of fishing, boating, skiing, camping and climbing within easy driving distance of Seattle. It is just a few hours drive into Idaho along scenic routes that take you past such glamorous sounding places as Snake River Gorge, the Cascade Mountains and the Columbia River.

It is fairly easy to travel to British Columbia from Seattle either by road, some 100 miles, by plane (less than 30 minutes) or by water—two and a half hours on the hydrofoil or four and a half hours on the ferry which deposits passengers in Victoria. For the more adventurous at heart there is a three and a half day trip via the Alaska Steamship Company, which is part of the State of Alaska's public transportation system, to Skagway, Alaska.

Alaska-bound passengers can go in grand style—a sleeping berth on the steamship round trip ticket for two is $742—or for the budget-minded you can sleep in the lounge of the boat—known as the solarium—for $138 one way.

The Pacific North-west is cooler than southern California, with summer temperatures averaging 68°. Many visitors start from Seattle and head south along the picturesque coast into the state of Oregon.

Ivor Davis

Feels like a real city

continued from previous page

Russian restaurants on the West Coast. It now has a subway system, Bart, which connects San Francisco with Oakland under the Bay and with Berkeley, home of one of the rowdier campuses of the University of California.

Try to avoid driving in the city. Parking is impossible, traffic is awful, with a maze of one-way streets, and the pitch of the hills can be terrifying. A variety of good public transport is available. There are plenty of cabs and a car is a distinct liability.

From Fisherman's Wharf, a mile and a half ferry ride takes you to the notorious Alcatraz Prison now run by the National Parks Service, affording you a glimpse of Al Capone's cell—and the San Francisco skyline. Tour information from the Parks Service.

From San Francisco one can reach some of the most magnificent scenery in the West. North are the Redwood forests, those natural cathedrals of breathtaking splendour which run 550 miles north of San Francisco to the south-west corner of the state of Oregon on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Also north of San Francisco is the Russian river, a scenic recreation area. The river flows south for several miles, then turns inland through redwood groves and vineyards before rejoining the Pacific.

About 200 miles south of San Francisco is Yosemite National Park, a wonder of meadows, rivers and tall peaks with a great assortment of accommodation from cabins to tents, to trailer parks. Reservations have to be made well in advance for peak season, but it is a never to be forgotten experience.

The Monterey Peninsula is an easy two-hour drive south of San Francisco with the pretty Spanish mission towns of Carmel and Monterey, set among pines, cypresses and white sands. Between them is the scenic 17-mile drive, which winds its way through the famous fairways of Pebble Beach and Cypress Pines golf courses. The 65-mile drive from Carmel, south towards Hearst Castle, runs along the famed Big Sur coastline. It is wild, rugged, winding and beautiful, comparable to the coast of Western Ireland or the Western Highlands of Scotland.

Then there is wine. One of the pleasanter trips from San Francisco and an attractive idea for lovers of the grape is a tour of the wine country. You can drive yourself or take a chartered bus. A valuable brochure, *California's Wine Wonderland* is available from the Wine Institute of California, 165 Post Street, San Francisco, California 94108—include money for postage.

It is like driving in the Loire Valley, only cheaper and people are friendlier. The hospitality is generous in the wineries and there are quaint restaurants and country inns to rest at. There are hundreds of tasting rooms from the coastal regions to the sierras, extending north and south. You can take a day trip—or spend a week.

For the politically minded, Sacramento is the capital of the most populous state in the union and it is a three-hour drive from San Francisco, very hot in summer, but pleasant the rest of the year.

With the pound doing so well, a western American holiday is one of the best bargains for Britons. Dining out, particularly, will seem reasonable with dinner at a top restaurant available for $20 a person, often including a good California wine. Hotels are uniformly good, from the high-priced luxury hotels in San Francisco and Los Angeles, about $100 a night, to the plentiful motel/hotels, clean and efficient with private bath, colour television, air conditioning and pool, which run at about $35 to $45 and more per couple.

Planning ahead information can be had from the Greater Los Angeles Visitor's Bureau, 505 South Flower Street, Los Angeles California 90071, serving all of Southern California, and the San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1390 Market Street, San Francisco.

For Automobile Association members there is a superb and detailed California/Nevada Tour book which will tell you everything you need to know about the two states. The Auto Club also provides similarly detailed booklets on other parts of the North-west, from route information, to current hotel prices, to restaurant recommendations.

Greyhound offers the Ameripass for 30-day unlimited travel, which is obtainable from its London office. Amtrak offers seven, 14, 21 and 28 day passes known as the USA Rail pass, which can be obtained through any Thomas Cook office.

I. D.



The pasteboard version has been the backdrop to numerous Hollywood shoot-outs. This is Front Street, Dodge City, Kansas, where Wyatt Earp and tamed the bad men. The original burnt down almost a century ago, but has been faithfully recreated from photographs.

...Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis/St Paul, Denver...

Trail to mid-West follows famous rail links

Those who want to discover what many regard as the real America should choose the northern gateways of Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis/St Paul. These give direct access not only to the mid-West but also to the more northerly of America's 17 western states.

It could be argued that the West begins at Omaha, Nebraska, where most that is old in American history gives way to much that is new. From this city the great Union Pacific Railroad began its drive to San Francisco, eventually linking the continent "from sea to shining sea". To the north lie the Black Hills of Dakota, the last sacred Sioux burial ground. Westward, along the line followed by the Union Pacific, is the Oregon Trail through Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and parallel to this the route taken by the Mormons in their search for the promised land by the Great Salt Lake.

If the traveller to Omaha turns south, a drive of seven to 10 hours will take him to the cowtowns of Kansas, such as Wichita and Dodge City—the latter with its marvellously re-created Front Street. To the south-west is Pike's Peak and the splendour of the Colorado Rockies, or the beautiful national parks, canyons and lakes of southern Utah.

By crossing the Missouri river and returning to the entry points, the visitor can savour again the atmosphere of the great farming and industrial centres of Chicago and Detroit, bask in the rolling agricultural richness of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, or gaze in awe at the vastness of the Great Lakes. The three mid-Western gateways give entry to an area which is probably as diverse, both historically and scenically, as any in the nation.

Detroit is an ideal starting point for the older states of Michigan and Indiana. It also gives easy access to the resort areas around Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, and to Canada. If travelling is to be kept to a minimum, this is the place to stay. The Greyhound service, for instance, takes only about six hours to reach Chicago from Detroit, at a one-way cost of less than $30.

Minneapolis/St Paul will attract those who wish to explore Minnesota and Wisconsin. It is also one of the main starting points for the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska, which make up the "old west" region of the United States. Access to towns within them by air is almost always through Minneapolis/St Paul, Denver or Salt Lake City.

Chicago, with its busy O'Hare International Airport, is one of the biggest transport centres in America. Flights to Denver and Salt Lake City take 2 hours 30 minutes and 3 hours 10 minutes respectively; if added to an Apex ticket bought in London, the extra cost is £41 and £65.50. Typical Apex returns from London up to about mid-June are £322 to Chicago and Detroit (flying times 8 hours 30 minutes and 10 hours respectively, British Airways and TWA) and £268.50 to Minneapolis/St Paul (8 hours 45 minutes, Northwest Orient). Western Airlines begins a direct flight to Denver from April.

Amtrak offers train services from Chicago to most other parts of the United States. There are basically two major passenger rail services westward. That to Denver costs $110 one way, and the other—to Seattle—charges $95 to Williston, Montana. One of America's most picturesque rail journeys is operated not by Amtrak but by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad; it takes 14 hours to cover the 570 miles of mountain track between Denver and Salt Lake City ($46.50 one way).

Although the distances are vast, roads are first class and travelling times relatively short. Those who plan to tour would do best to choose a base after arrival at one of the "gateways", reach it by air, rail or coach, and then hire a car. Hertz, for example, offers a medium-sized vehicle such as a four-door Ford Fairmont in Denver for $179 a week or $550 a month, with unlimited milage if it is returned to Denver.

From Chicago, Omaha is 10 hours by road via Des Moines, Denver another 11 hours or so on from Omaha, and Salt Lake City a good 12 hours from the Colorado capital. Road times are slower in western Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and eastern Utah because of the up-and-down nature of the roads over the Continental Divide.

Those who favour big city life will not want to wander far from Chicago, which is now one of the most attractive of all America's urban conurbations. The stockyards have long since gone, but many of the millionaires' mansions still stand on the magnificent Lake Shore Drive.

Good centres for touring include Rapid City, South Dakota, easily accessible by air from Minneapolis/St Paul or Denver. It is close to Deadwood City, Lead and Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills and to the Dakota Badlands, with their weird rock formations. An onward flight from Minneapolis to Rapid City, bought in advance in Britain, would cost an extra £61.50; the flying time is 2 hours 35 minutes.

Denver is reasonably close to the Rocky Mountain National Park to the north-east, and to such gold and silver towns as Leadville and Cripple Creek or internationally renowned ski resorts such as Vail and Aspen. In two or three weeks it is possible comfortably to explore as far south as the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona.

Flower-filled Salt Lake City, built by the Mormons to Brigham Young's directions, is one of the most beautiful and fascinating cities in the west. In the southern part of Utah, two or three days' easy drive from the state capital, is the enormous Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the sumptuous national parks of Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef.

Some of America's grandest and most historic hotels are situated in this area. The Drake in Chicago has four restaurants; a superbly trained staff of 950 who look after the 700 rooms, many of them overlooking Lake Michigan; and a reputation that has attracted to its doors every royal personage to visit the Windy City. Its rates for a room for two range from $71 to $114 a night.

In Denver the famous Brown Palace has played host to the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, John Philip Sousa, and almost every president elected since it was opened 88 years ago. Expect to pay about $85 to $90 a night for two.

The Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City, like Chicago's Drake, ranks among the finest in the world. Built and opened 70 years ago by the Mormons, it stands within a few paces of Temple Square and offers some of the finest food available anywhere in its award-winning restaurant, The Roof. Prices are about $90 a night.

At the other end of the scale are the motels, almost all of which are maintained to high standards but whose charges are considerably lower. Exceptionally good value is available from the California-based Motel 6 group. Last year the night rate for two was $14.95, and for four $17.95. The group accepts only cash payment in advance, and generally insists that keys must be picked up by 6 pm, because of the heavy demands on its space.

The average price for a room for two in motels generally is likely to be between $20 and $25 a night this summer. Motel 6 is almost alone in refusing credit cards, a policy it justifies by pointing to its exceptionally low rates.

Prices for meals are low by European standards. Last summer in Estes Park, for example, the most expensive dish on the breakfast menu of a medium-standard restaurant was Rocky Mountain trout with toast and potatoes at $4.75. Half a cantaloupe melon was 95c, fresh strawberries and cream $1.50, Mexican scrambled eggs with whole wheat toast $2.25, and buttermilk pancakes with spiced sausage and fresh fruit $2.95.

Such cities as Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis/St Paul, Denver and Salt Lake offer restaurants of every kind. At Chicago's Drake my bill for two dinners and two breakfasts, in each case for two people, came to less than $80. One of the dinners was in the superb Avenue Restaurant, which specializes in American regional dishes. We had clam chowder soup; duck and chicken with raisins, walnuts and apricot sauce; broccoli and hollandaise sauce; potato au gratin; sweets; half a bottle of Californian wine; impeccable service; and music for dancing provided by a local trio.

For quick snacks try the restaurant chains, such as McDonald's or Sambo's, where prices are remarkably low, the service quick and courteous, and the standards of cooking much higher than in the European equivalents. They are ideal while travelling, or if taking children.

America is full, too, of "fun" restaurants. One such is the Old Salt City Jail, on the outskirts of Salt Lake City. This is what the name suggests, with diners being ushered into former cells and served "maximum sentence sandwiches" or "first degree entrées". A half-pound top sirloin steak on an open-face sandwich with mushrooms and chips is priced at about $6.

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... Houston, Dallas–Fort Worth ...

Real cowboy country opens to traveller

The two gateways of Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth open up to the traveller America's real cowboy country—the states of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas, all synonymous with the Wild West.

This is the land of the Apache, the Choctaw and the Comanche. In it are legendary towns like Santa Fe, Tulsa, El Paso, Laredo and San Antonio, with its famous Alamo mission. Fairly cheap transatlantic travel means that the excitement and fascination of the Wild American 1800s is no more than an aircraft ride away.

Internal airline systems from Houston, Dallas and all the three states' main cities are a joy to use and are often very cheap. Domestic airline price wars are frequent, so it is best to shop around for the best deal. Many of the large cities have more than one airport. Each of the two "gateways" has two primary airports. Most transatlantic flights arrive at Houston's intercontinental, 16 miles north of the city centre, but a lot of local air traffic is routed through Hobby airport, nine miles to the south-east.

Dallas-Fort Worth airport lies nearer to Arlington than its two namesakes, but Love Field, a main domestic airport, is only five miles from the Dallas city centre and 13 miles from the intercontinental airport.

Getting round the three states by car is generally easy. On arrival it is more common nowadays to get astride a Ford Mustang or Pinto rather than the four-legged variety. All the big car hire firms have desks adjacent to the arrival gates and it pays to shop for the best deal. As a rough guide, a week's hire of a Ford Mustang from Hertz at Houston airport with unlimited milage costs $200, provided the car is returned to Houston.

If the vehicle is dropped at another airport, the whole system changes to a daily charge plus milage. This can be expensive. Travellers can arrange for a car to await them at their destination by ordering through the relevant hire company's offices in Britain, or booking a package like the Blue Sky Fly Drive. The latter's summer prices start from £324 a person for seven nights, including hotel vouchers.

The London-based travel company Magic of Texas offers 13-day Wild West Tours from £698. This combines San Antonio with the Texas hill country, Langtry and the ghost town of Terlingua, and includes the Big Bend country, El Paso and a visit over the border to Juárez.

Buses and trains are available. Greyhound runs excellent and inexpensive intercity services as does its major competitor, Trailways, based in Dallas. This year Trailways is offering discount US passes, enabling tourists to travel anywhere in America from $120 a week.

Amtrack, the national passenger railway, serves the northern and north-western areas of America quite well but somewhat neglects the south-western states. Texas is the only one that comes out with a reasonable route system. New Mexico has only two routes passing through from neighbouring states, and Oklahoma is forgotten. As a senior tourist executive said in Austin: "Only railway enthusiasts travel by train nowadays."

Oklahoma has the largest Indian population of any state in America. The name comes from two Choctaw words—okla, meaning people, and humma, for red. It is a land of many contrasts, with hills, plains and forests. Oklahoma's most famous son, the film star and cowboy philosopher Will Rogers, is honoured everywhere. A major attraction for any cowboy historian is the beautifully-styled National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. There are displays of Western art and a library of books and documents on frontier development.

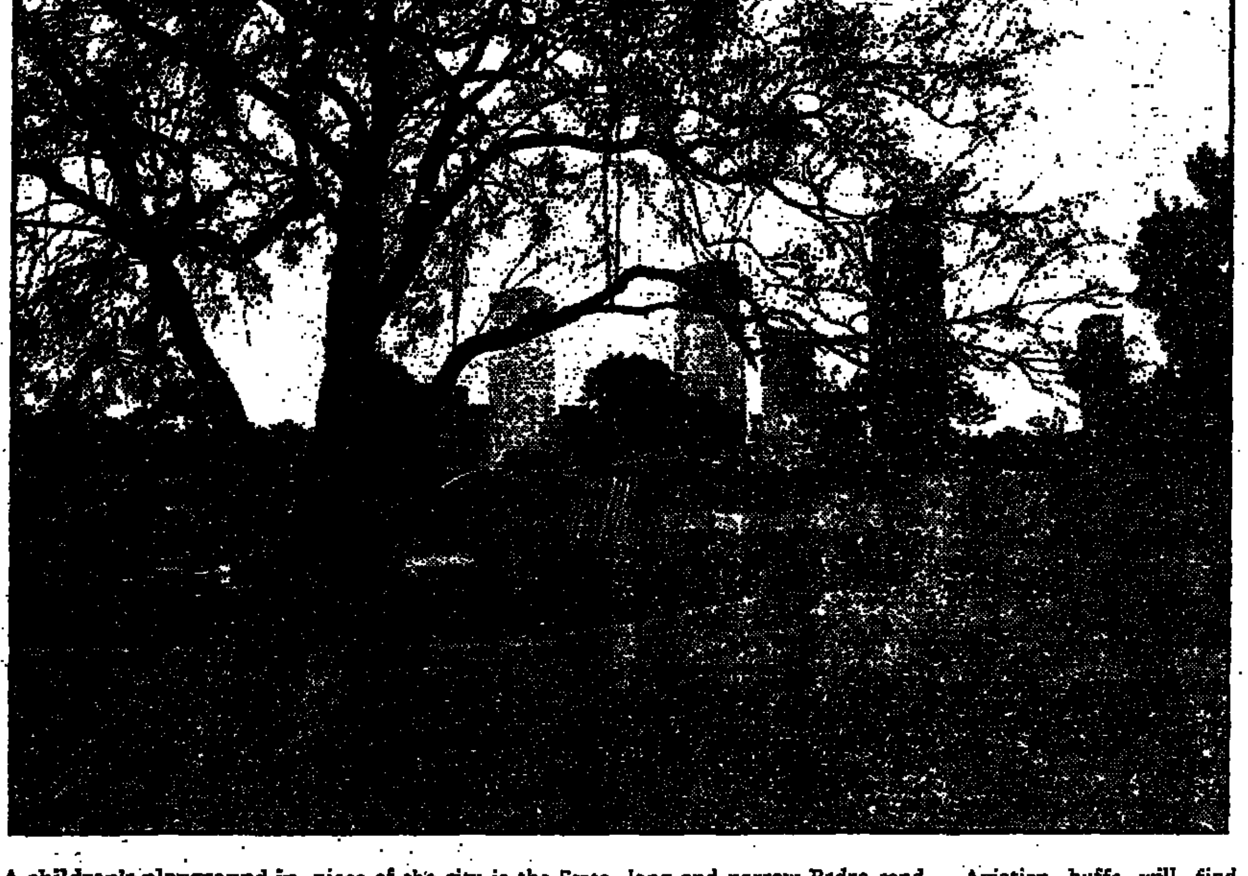
The second largest city is Tulsa, familiar from the song 24 hours from . . . In a typically American nationwide poll, the town was acclaimed as "the most all-round desirable place to live", partly because of its location in beautiful rolling hills.

Daily, non-stop American Airlines services link Oklahoma City with Tulsa and Dallas-Fort Worth, taking about 50 minutes to either destination. Each also has a daily Braniff service from Houston. In the summer temperatures often go over 100°F. Snow sometimes falls in the north-west but is seldom seen in the south-east. As Will Rogers said: "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, just wait a few minutes."

New Mexico is America's fifth largest state. Los Alamos, high in the mountains, 60 miles north of Albuquerque, was built by the government in 1942 to house the scientists and technicians who built the first atomic bomb.

The project was accomplished almost in privacy, and there are still vast regions of New Mexico that are thinly populated. The state is beautiful, with great mountain ranges, rocky deserts, rugged canyons and wild forests covering thousands of square miles.

The climate is dry and warm but because of the thinness of the atmosphere the temperature drops sharply at night. Santa Fe, captured by Confederate troops during the Civil War, is the oldest seat of government in the United States and serves as the state capital. After the hostilities ended there were two years of battles with the Apache and Navaho Indians. Kit Carson, the famous frontier scout, led the New Mexicans during the Indian campaigns.



A children's playground in Houston. Right: inside the State Capitol Building, Austin.

A grisly chapter in New Mexico's history was the Lincoln County war when cattlemen and other groups were fighting for political control. It was during this period that Billy the Kid and other gunmen made their mark. The gunslinging came to an end when Governor Lew Wallace declared martial law.

As one of the state's official guides says: "The most famous tourist attraction in New Mexico is a hole in the ground". The huge Carlsbad Caverns, on the Texas border, is an underground fairyland of limestone formations. A tour of just three of its 23 miles of passages, 800ft below ground, takes four hours.

For years, Santa Fe was the commercial centre of the south-western states. Several great trade routes reached it—the Old Spanish Trail, the Chihuahua Trail, and the famous Santa Fe Trail itself, which crossed the plains to the Oklahoma and Kansas border.

High on the list of places to visit is the Palace of the Governors, opposite the Santa Fe Trail marker in the Plaza. It was there that Governor Lew Wallace wrote the novel Ben Hur, with the shades of his windows drawn because Billy the Kid had vowed to kill him.

Austin, named after Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas", is the hub city of Texas. The centre piece of the city is the State Capitol building, a massive, classic statehouse of famous Texas pink granite which dominates the park-like area it occupies. Free guided tours are available between 8.15 and 4.30. Houston is the state's largest town, and ranks sixth in size in the United States. It is named after Sam Houston, general of the Texas army, and has experienced remarkable growth since its birth as a small riverboat landing in 1836.

High on Houston's list of places to visit is the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, headquarters of America's space programme and the famous mission control that guided pioneering astronauts. Exhibits include spacecraft that have been to the Moon and examples of space technology beyond imagination. Entry is free and the area provides the best value visit in Texas.

No visit should pass without a pilgrimage to San Antonio and the Alamo. The mission structure, which stands in central San Antonio, established itself in 1836 as the Cradle of Texas Liberty when outnumbered Texans gallantly challenged a seasoned Mexican army. The defenders, including William Travis, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died to the last man.

On the southern point of the state lies the town of Harlingen with its neighbouring seaside paradise, South Padre Island. The area is known as the Lower Rio Grande Valley and is fast becoming the most popular holiday resort of the south-western states. The long and narrow Padre sand island sweeps in a golden arc more than 110 miles north to Corpus Christi.

A wide range of accommodation is available—boatels, motels, marinas and seaside leisure homes. Local restaurants specialize in delicious seafood harvested daily from the Gulf of Mexico. The miles of beautiful gently sloping beaches are perfect for swimming and surf fishing.

Aviation buffs will find in Harlingen the Confederate Air Force Flying Museum, dedicated to the preservation, in flying condition, of obsolete Second World War aircraft.

Accommodation generally is not hard to find in the south-west. Holiday Inns, Howard Johnson's, Roadway and the excellent Ramada Inn motels are in abundance in the area. There should be no problem in getting a room for the night as long as it is not left too late in the evening. Motels on the outskirts of the major towns are less expensive than their city equivalents. Room costs work out at about $40 a night for two in a good-quality motel like Ramada and Holiday Inns. It is possible to get rooms for half this price but the standard in cleanliness can drop markedly.

Bars come in all shapes and sizes. The main types to look for are known as "mixed drinks" bars. These specialize in cocktails but sell everything. During the "happy hour", which usually lasts for longer, drinks are half price. Most mixed drinks bars have popcorn or nuts on the bar. In Texas the customers usually put a pocketful of money on the counter if they are going to run up a tab, and this can make a crowded bar look like a casino in Las Vegas. Tipping is from 10 to 15 per cent and must not be forgotten.

Everybody in these cowboy states, particularly Texas, says "howdy" or "how are you". They are amiable people and do not really expect you to strike up a conversation. Just say "howdy" in return.

Ted Trott

... Atlanta, St Louis, New Orleans

Slow-moving 'nation' retains own identity

The South is another country. It is Uncle Remus and Elvis Presley, William Faulkner and W. C. Handy, a slow-moving nation within a nation which retains its own identity more positively than any other part of the United States.

Most Southerners have never been anywhere else in America, let alone the world, and have never seen any reason to. In Arkansas, whole towns are populated by descendants of the Cherokee who have never travelled outside their county. The welcome is the warmest there, watching rural America away from the normal tourist haunts.

But more obvious attractions are there for those who want them. New Orleans ranks alongside New York, London and Paris as one of the great tourist centres of the world. It is unique, a blend of sounds, smells, sights and tastes which exist simply to stimulate the senses—decadence incarnate.

Elsewhere is the gigantic natural beauty which we have come to expect, the vast swamps on which New Orleans is built, the slow muddy Mississippi which crawls, a natural boundary, through its heart from Minnesota, and the Great Smoky Mountains, the mist which gave them their name threading its way through rolling forests and tortuous waters.

The South belies every preconception which the British visitor is likely to hold. It is verdant, and for the main part, free of some of the more illiberal notions which are reemerging in the states about race, the morality of the Origin of Species and the wickedness of drink. One minor exception is Lynchburg, Tennessee, where one of the finest Southern whiskies, Jack Daniels, is made in the full view of admiring tourists, whose visit is ended with the offer of a glass of lemonade.

Lynchburg may earn most of its income from Jack Daniels but it is a dry county. It is just this sort of illogicality which makes the South what it is, the home of Decatur and the non sequitur, grits and Waylon Jennings and an insiduously addictive way of life which sees more worth in living today than thinking about tomorrow.

The North never understood the South and still does not. Woody Allen's Manhattan guilt and introspection might as well come from the moon. The citizens of Plains, Georgia, must be hoping sincerely that Mr Jimmy Carter will not return home with any bad habits from Washington.

New Orleans is the most visited city of the South. The atmosphere of its heart, the French Quarter, is exotic. True the sex shops and hookers have moved in, but it remains excitingly vibrant.

The nightlife means music, walking down Bourbon Street listening to the jazz coming from the open bars, visiting Preservation Hall, and drinking the New Orleans cocktail, the Hurricane, in Pat O'Briens.

The day can be spent visiting the swamp surrounding the city and the old plantations located there, travelling on an old Mississippi paddle steamer, or visiting fine pre-Civil War mansions.

The finest state in the South is Tennessee, which stretches from Memphis in the west to the Smokies in the east, with Nashville in the centre. Memphis is a glorious city, full of life and only just waking up to its tourist potential. Most of its visitors in the past have been Elvis Presley fans seeking a glance at the late singer's mansion Graceland, where he is now buried. Graceland should be seen if only to witness an American worshipping of the dead which outstrips anything appearing in The Loved Ones.

Nashville is country music, epitomized in Grand Ol Opry-land, a vast musical theme park. Some interesting southern architecture remains, however, and the city does make an interesting stop on the way to the Smokies. The base of the Appalachians which stretch from Pennsylvania, the Smokies are a lush and peaceful respite from the hurly-burly of the rest of the tour. The wildlife, which includes bears, is interesting and fishing is particularly good. Tackle can be hired easily.

Stay in Pigeon Forge or Cherokee, not Gatlinburg, the centre of the Smokies, which has become hideously commercialized. Tempting as it may sound, avoid Chattanooga near-by. One can only wonder why the choo-choo ever stopped there; the town is trapped for ever like an insect in amber.

Arkansas is off the beaten track but not to be ignored for that. Its small hillbilly communities of the north are friendly and interesting. Mountain Home, by vast Bull Shoals Lake is particularly recommended.

The capital of Georgia, Atlanta, is very different from the one which was burnt down in the Civil War. Famed for its exciting modern architecture and parks, its main drawback is a reputation as one of the most violent cities in America.

Biloxi and Gulfport in Mississippi are two resorts on the Gulf of Mexico which offer beach and sea facilities. The NASA National Space Technology Laboratories at Picayune has interesting tours but by appointment only. Write to NASA, NSTL Public Affairs Office, Bay Street, St Louis, Missouri 39529.

The capital of Kentucky, Louisville, sees the Kentucky Derby run each spring and boat trips are available on the Ohio River on the Belle of Louisville.

In Harrodsburg, there is a reproduction of the first permanent English settlement west of the Allegheney Mountains in the Old Fort Harrod State Park. Horse lovers should visit Lexington where several fine racing stud farms admit visitors.

St Louis, like the rest of Missouri, can hardly make up its mind whether it is in the South or mid-West. Its famous memorial arch, a 630ft hollow curve on the banks of the Mississippi, stands over a museum relating the history of the colonization of the West. Most American museums are good and this is one of the best. Hannibal, north of the city, is the birthplace of Mark Twain and, though somewhat commercialized, well worth a visit.

Alabama has its own Space and Rocket Centre at Huntsville, the Russell Cave National Monument, an ancient Indian habitation, and a number of good parks, notably Big Spring International Park, where John Hunt founded Huntsville in 1805. Mobile has its own Mardi Gras, but it does not compare with New

continued on page VII

Gateways: Miami, Tampa...

Plan well to avoid 'merchants of vulgarity'

British travel agents are swarming over Florida arranging all sorts of package holidays, and multitudes of British tourists are not far behind. Air communications to Florida are good, the prices of everything from ice cream to hotel rooms are competitive, and no state in the eastern part of America offers anything like as much variety for the holidaymaker.

The sponsors of good taste, elegance and grace are in constant battle with the merchants of vulgarity. The visitor needs to plan well and to be cautious. Hopes of a quiet and relaxed couple of weeks in the sun can be dashed on arriving at a huge gaudy Miami Beach hotel where the noise is greater than that of Trafalgar Square in rush hour.

Dreams of romantic drives down to the southernmost tip of the United States can become nightmares if there are just one or two motor accidents on the single 136-mile two-lane road which links Miami to Key West. Slapdash arrangements which neglect confirmed hotel and motel reservations in some parts of the state can result in one's driving for hours upon end deep into the night without finding a reasonable place to stay.

Avoid at all costs hotels, motels, amusement parks, wildlife reserves and crocodile farms which claim to be the "most fantastic" or the "greatest" or the "most thrilling" seen anywhere. There are thousands of billboards across the state proclaiming the wonders of tourist attractions which in reality are disappointing.

Getting to Florida is easy. There are direct flights from the United Kingdom to both Miami and Tampa, and easy connexions from these cities by road and air to most parts of the state. The fastest way to go and the one which provides by far the most enjoyment (no jet lag, for example) is to take Concorde to New York and change to one of the many American airlines with direct flights to airports in Florida.

Some people fly to New York or Washington for a few days then take a slow and long drive south. Savannah in Georgia is certainly worth a short visit, and just near by is South Carolina's Hilton Head Island with good beaches and excellent sports facilities—including the Rod Laver School of Tennis.

There is little to occupy or attract the tourist in northern Florida. The state capital of Tallahassee is one of the most boring and least attractive cities in the southern states of America. Jacksonville on the east coast is a bustling commercial centre of negligible interest to tourists.

South of Jacksonville is the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral air force station where the first American manned flights into space started 20 years ago and where the space shuttle programme is slowly moving ahead. Rockets go up every now and again and if you are anywhere in the United States you can make a free telephone call to 800-432-2153 to obtain detailed information.

There are interesting tours for visitors to the space centre. Based at Orlando, it is easy to drive to and from the centre in a day, and I think this is preferable to spending a night there.

Orlando, which has an efficient airport, is a bustling and expanding city and is the home of the world's largest fun fair, Disney World, which opened in 1971 at a cost of $400m, is still expanding. The huge park grounds, with hotels and golf courses and shops of all kinds, contain many of the things—except for beaches—which one would desire on a holiday.

There is a tremendous whirl of activity about much of Disney World, and the costs of the fun fair rides and other attractions can mount up swiftly. Small children can be scared by some of the cartoon characters brought to life in this unreal setting. Still, a lot of fun can be had there for a few days, and most of the hotels are good.

One ought not to stay in one place in Florida, where nothing could be easier than to rent a car. A widely accepted credit card, such as Visa or American Express is important for renting a car in the United States. Most of the rival companies offer unlimited milage in Florida, with special rates for renting for at least a week. Advance booking helps.

From Orlando the choice is a difficult one. To the west lies Tampa and en route one passes through Lakeland, the centre of the orange and grapefruit groves. Tampa itself is a rather miserable port city but close by, near Clearwater and St Petersburg, are some fine holiday resorts. I would go farther south—at least as far as Sarasota.

Sarasota is a pleasant city. It has wonderful white sand beaches with millions of beautiful shells, some of the most splendid shops on the west coast of Florida and some excellent restaurants—including one at the superb Hyatt hotel. And any visitor to Florida should see the Ringling Museum, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The Ringling brothers were the creators of the biggest American circus. They made a fortune, and they spent it on their Sarasota home. The centrepiece of the Ringling estate is a huge copy of a Florentine villa which houses an astonishing art collection—El Greco, Rembrandt, Cranach, Poussin, Velasquez, and a room full of Rubens. Next door is the Ringling mansion, with room upon room of European antiques, and in the park there is a small eighteenth century Venetian theatre which was brought brick by brick from Italy in 1949. And no child will be bored by the circus museum which the Ringlings built on the estate.

Exhibits at John F. Kennedy Space Center, where "rockets go up every now and then".

South of Sarasota is Sanibel Island, with beautiful beaches, and motels and hotels of all prices. Near by is Fort Myers. This is where Thomas Edison lived for years, and his home and the museum with all his inventions is worth a visit. Still farther south there is sedate and refined Naples, where, incidentally, a fine meal is to be had at the Continental restaurant. Naples is close to Marco island.

If you are prosperous, and enjoy golf, tennis and swimming, then the Marco Beach hotel, which is well run by the Marriott Organization, is a place to note. I think the Boca Raton hotel on the east coast is preferable, although the Marco's beach is better. One can fly direct from Miami to Marco island.

Instead of turning west from Orlando, you could drive east and down the long and straight highway to Palm Beach, the poshest tourist resort in Florida. This is where millionaires have homes and John Kennedy had a retreat, and where the prices in shops along Worth Avenue are so outrageous that one has the feeling that some bizarre joke is being played.

The lavishness of Palm Beach puts this resort above all its Florida rivals, and the Breakers hotel, with its pomp and golf courses and big meals and sometimes poor service is a unique institution. I find the place awful, but many people twice my age find it delightful. The Holiday Inns and Howard Johnson on South Ocean Boulevard are good value, and an outstanding meal can be enjoyed in this part of town at the Monagesque restaurant.

South of Palm Beach there is one holiday resort after another — including Boca Raton, where the prime attraction is the Resort hotel—and before long one has arrived in Miami. The large hotels of Hallandale and Hollywood and Miami Beach leave me cold. They seem overpriced in the main and largely devoted to catering to a loud and unappealing sort of tourist—particularly the most famous of them all, the newly renovated Fontainebleu Hilton.

You can get to the Florida Keys by driving due south from Miami or, if you happen to be in Naples, by driving directly across the state through some rather disappointing parts of the big Everglades National Park. In Key Largo a lot of fun can be had by jumping aboard the MV Discovery for a tour of coral reefs, so long as it is a calm day. The day I went, the seas proved too choppy for most of the tourists.

Still farther south, in Islamorada, there is one of those excellent small hotels which one does not find in most package tours or tourist guides but which happen to be one of the nicest places to stay. This one is especially good, if you can get a room overlooking the Atlantic. The Cheeca Lodge is worth its high prices for a night or two, and staying there breaks up the long drive from Miami to Key West. The restaurant at the lodge left much to be desired, but there are some excellent and inexpensive fish restaurants near by.

From there it is straight south to Key West—home of Hemingway, the Casa Marina hotel, good food, lively bars, fishing, beaches and high temperatures. There are lots of good places to stay, but the Casa Marina, once a private home and only recently renovated on a massive scale, is without doubt my favourite. It is just 90 miles to Cuba from Key West in the sunshine, and it is a long way from the awful bustle and the multi-storey buildings of Miami Beach.

There is a great deal to do in Florida, and if the thought of spending too much time on land is too dreadful to contemplate there are a couple of good alternatives. One is to catch one of the multitudes of cruise ships in Miami and sail to the Caribbean. Or you can simply charter a boat for six people, and a captain too if you are inexperienced, in many of the ports from Palm Beach south and sail down the coast at a cost per person a day of as little as $50, including food.

Frank Vogl

...Washington, Philadelphia...

Region where history is part of the allure

Jamestown, Virginia, where in 1607 a small group of settlers overcame tremendous hardships to found the first permanent English settlement in the New World; Independence Hall, Philadelphia, where with a stroke of a quill a group of patriots signed a new nation into being; the sandy slopes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where two brothers named Wright successfully tested man's first flying machine—these are just a few of the attractions that annually draw thousands of tourists to the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Although historic locations dominate the area, which extends from the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, south to the city of Charleston, South Carolina, and includes the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, as well as the nation's capital, Washington, DC, history is just part of the region's allure.

Recreational areas abound. For the tourist who longs to spend days lolling in the sun, the region offers a variety of beaches, from the popular resorts of Virginia Beach and Ocean City to the more remote undeveloped islands and peninsulas of North Carolina's outer banks. And for those who prefer camping sites and hiking trails, the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny mountain ranges couple breathtaking views with cool mountain greenery to offer a respite from the summer heat.

Day or night, visitors will find a wide variety of entertainment in the metropolitan areas, from first-class museums and modern art galleries to excellent national symphony orchestras and trendy jazz and rock clubs. Many top-name plays and musical comedies stop in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, before settling in on Broadway, and resident theatres abound in cities throughout the area. Fine ethnic restaurants are a metropolitan staple, and one cannot visit the area without sampling the mouth-watering seafood which is an Atlantic Coast speciality.

There are three international airports serving the mid-Atlantic region. Philadelphia international airport is located about six miles south of the city, and the least expensive transport from the airport is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transport Authority's (Septa) airport express bus, which runs daily from 6 am to 10.30 pm and costs $1.50 for a one-way trip.

Dulles airport in Chantilly, Virginia, lies 25 miles west of Washington, and a metered taxi from the airport to the nation's capital costs a minimum of $25. However, Greyhound Bus Lines provides a service into Washington for $4.25.

Baltimore-Washington international airport is located 10 miles south of Baltimore and 34 miles north-east of Washington. Taxis, limousines and public buses are available for the short trip into Baltimore; and the limousine service into Washington is a bargain at $5.

Transport within the mid-Atlantic region is varied. National Airlines flies to most of the region's state capitals and Piedmont Airlines provides the most extensive service. Although airline fares are generally high, super saver fares offered by airlines on round-trip tickets can save the traveller money. On a Piedmont Airlines flight between Washington's National Airport and Charleston, South Carolina, the regular round-trip fare of $214 is cut to $118 if one books seven days in advance and stays overnight on Friday in Charleston.

If you plan short trips to outlying areas or interstate travel, Hertz, Avis and National car rental agencies are located throughout the area.

Most big cities and towns in the mid-Atlantic region have hotel/motel chains such as Holiday Inn, Travel Lodge, Ramada Inn, and Quality Inn. Prices extend from $30 a night in remote locations to more than twice that amount at popular resorts.

Summer days in the mid-Atlantic region are typically hot and humid, particularly in Washington where temperatures range from the high-70s to the high-90s. Light, airy clothing is recommended, along with an umbrella to cope with the unexpected thunderstorm.

As befits a city which witnessed the birth of a nation, Philadelphia is filled with historic landmarks. A 25 cent ride on the city-centre loop bus takes you to Independence National Historical Park which includes a number of historic sights along its cobblestoned streets. On Market Street is Graff House, where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell pavilion and Franklin Court, the site of Benjamin Franklin's home. One block south is Independence Hall, where the constitutional convention met.

The Visitor Centre at Chestnut and Third streets provides information on walking tours and the cultural loop bus runs daily from Independence Hall.

Many fine hotels are to be found in the heart of the city's historic area, with room rates ranging from $35 to $60 a night, and ethnic restaurants are scattered throughout Philadelphia.

Within a four-hour drive south of Philadelphia, lie both Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington DC. Among Baltimore's many attractions is the inner harbour area, plied by the Baltimore Patriot (adults $4 and children $2).

Literature lovers can tour Edgar Allen Poe's home at 203 Amity Street, and visit the writer's grave in Westminster churchyard at Fayette and Green streets.

A convenient means of touring Washington DC is on the Metro underground system. For a basic fare of 60 cents, you can stop at most of Washington's major tourist attractions: the Capitol Building, where you can observe Congress at work from the visitors' gallery; the Smithsonian Institution, with its many art, science and history museums; and Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the graves of President Kennedy and his brother, Senator Robert Kennedy.

Tourmobiles run every half hour from 9 am to 6.30 pm. They pass the 555-ft Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. A full-day pass costs $5 and riders can disembark at any stop and reboard at their leisure. And for a higher fee, a visit to Mount Vernon, Virginia estate of George Washington, is included. Every United States president except for Washington, has lived at the White House, which is open for touring from Tuesday to Saturday inclusive, between 10 am and 12.45 pm. Free tickets are available between 8 am and noon at the booth on the Ellipse, the grassy space to the south of the White House.

Hotel rates are high in Washington but moderately-priced accommodations can be found in the outlying Virginia suburbs of Arlington and Alexandria, where single rooms average about $50 a night. Restaurants are plentiful and extend from moderately-priced lunches available in many government building cafeterias to fine French dinners in Georgetown, located in Upper North-west Washington. Georgetown visitors can shop in fancy boutiques, lunch at outdoor cafés, or spend a night on the town listening to jazz at Blues Alley or rock at The Cellar Door.

Although a hired car is not necessary for touring Washington, there are many worthwhile sights within a few hours' drive, such as Skyline Drive, which begins in Front Royal, Virginia, runs 105 miles south along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and offers spectacular views from altitudes of up to 3,680ft. North of Front Royal is Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, with its landmarks and artefacts from the Civil War and the War of 1812. And the three-hour drive south to Charlottesville, Virginia, is well worth the trip for a tour of Monticello, the magnificent eighteenth-century estate of Thomas Jefferson.

In Richmond, the capital of Virginia, one can tour the Southern White House and the Museum for the Confederacy. Beautifully restored homes from the period, such as the Dooley Mansion, with its splendid Italian and Japanese gardens, can also be toured for a nominal fee. Accommodation in Richmond is plentiful and moderately priced from $25 to $35 for a single room, and the city is located near many popular southern Virginia attractions, such as King's Dominion, an enormous theme amusement park and the famous Atlantic coastal beach resort of Virginia Beach.

West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains feature some of the finest state parks and natural wilderness areas in the eastern half of the United States. The Monongahela National Forest, which combines developed recreational areas with untouched wilderness, and the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, with its magnificent panoramas from atop the highest peak in the state, are just two of the many areas offering visitors hunting, fishing, camping and hiking.

North Carolina features its own famous mountain range: the Great Smoky Mountains located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the eastern border of the state. Visitors can take self-conducted tours of the area with the help of a rented car tour tape, available for $8.5 at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in the town of Cherokee near by.

Another outstanding North Carolina attraction is the 120-mile stretch of Atlantic coast islands and peninsulas known as the Outer Banks. There, one can enjoy both undeveloped beaches, such as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and popular beach resorts, like Nags Head.

Hotel accommodation ranges from $25 to $35 a night in the town of Buxton, near Cape Hatteras, to $40 to $50 for the same at Nags Head.

Popular beach resorts stretch along the entire Atlantic coastline of South Carolina, from Myrtle Beach to Hilton Head Island. There is a large selection of ocean-front accommodation at Myrtle Beach, with prices ranging from $30 to $60 or more a night and tourists can enjoy golf, tennis and the amusement parks nearby.

Hilton Head Island, four hours to the south, is a self-contained recreational paradise featuring seven major resort areas with golf, tennis and horseback riding. Although there is a wide range of accommodation on the island, prices run high, and staying overnight two hours to the north, in Charleston, South Carolina, provides more economical lodging in one of the most charming colonial cities on the eastern seaboard.

Deborah Kasouf

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...New York, Boston

It's best on foot for the sights and sounds of the city

Most international flights to New York arrive at John F. Kennedy international airport, though the metropolitan area is serviced by Newark international and La Guardia, the latter primarily for domestic flights. Once on the ground you can reach the city by taxi for $20 or more, depending on your destination, or through a number of less expensive alternatives.

The JFK "train to the plane" is a combination of bus and subway that makes eight stops in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The fare is $4 and trains run every 20 minutes. There is also a bus service to the East Side terminal, 37th Street and First Avenue, leaving every 20 minutes (fare $5). Car rental is available, but more of a hindrance if your visit is confined to Manhattan. Parking is expensive and traffic police are vigilant. The towing fee for illegally-parked vehicles is $90.

Hotel room rates in New York City range from the more modest (with double rooms costing from $40 to $60 a night), at the Empire, 63rd and Broadway; the Pickwick Arms, East 51st Street and the Ansonia, Broadway, up to $70 to $90 a night for the same accommodation at the Gotham, Fifth Avenue, the Algonquin, West 44th Street and The Warwick, West 54th. As in London, reservations are suggested.

Regardless of the accommodation, visitors to the city can expect to spend little time in their hotel rooms. The sights and sounds of the city are a worldwide attraction, and the summer months are particularly attractive.

Among the cultural delights, especially since they are free, are performances of Shakespeare in Central Park, concerts (in all five boroughs) of the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic, the Newport-in-New York jazz festival and the Rockefeller Center special noon-time and evening programmes in the centre's parks and plaza.

Broadway, "the Great White Way" of theatre, is having another successful year with shows such as *42nd Street* and *Evita*. Off-Broadway offers Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival, with five, six and even seven shows running in Lafayette Street. For the budget-minded, half-price theatre tickets are sold on the day of the performance at the "TKTS" booth in Times Square at 47th Street.

Also available are "two-fers" that can be exchanged at box offices for reduced price tickets. "Two-fers" are also available at the New York Visitor Bureau, at Columbus Circle, along with detailed information on transport, hotels, dining, sightseeing, nightlife, theatre and a full, updated list of special events.

Though public transport is plentiful (bus, subway, taxi), the dedicated visitor to New York should explore as much as possible by foot. Manhattan is easy to move about in, with all streets and dissecting avenues sequentially numbered, and each neighbourhood offers its own special atmosphere. There is Wall Street, home of business and finance and the great stock exchanges; Soho, with its art galleries, restaurants and residential lofts; Chinatown; Little Italy; and Greenwich Village with its European-like side streets and nineteenth-century brownstones.

For the broader view, the panorama from the top of the World Trade Center, from where you can see the hills of New Jersey, is breath-taking. The Empire State Building, long a symbol of the city, should not be missed and offers its own magnificent view over Central Park. And there is the Statue of Liberty, not only for its significance but a marvellous sight of the New York harbour. At night the River Café, below the Brooklyn Bridge, offers one of the best views of the Manhattan skyline. It is expensive and advance booking a must. Or you might like to stop for a drink at the Beekman Towers, 49th Street and First Avenue, for a view of the United Nations and some of the city's most opulent blocks of flats.

Back on the ground, an afternoon ride in a hansom cab through Central Park is always enjoyable, followed perhaps by tea at the Palm Court of the Plaza Hotel, 59th and Fifth Avenue. From there it is an easy walk to Fifth Avenue and the city's most expensive and exclusive shopping area. Bargain hunters, on the other hand, should try Orchard Street on the Lower East Side, where designer clothes, leather bags and shoes and linens are half the price of the Fifth Avenue shops.

If you are in New York to look rather than to buy, there is a museum for every art medium in the city. The International Centre of Photography, 96th and Fifth Avenue, for instance, has floors of photographs by new as well as established photographers. The Hayden Planetarium, part of the Museum of Natural History, features a "laserium", a sound-and-sight show using laser beams, and there is the Metropolitan Museum of art, one of the finest in the world, as well as the Guggenheim, the Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

Stamina and purse permitting, nightfall brings yet further adventures to the visitor, with a wealth of supper clubs, nightclubs and dancing.

Using Manhattan as a base, a delightful day trip could take you up the Hudson Valley, where history and beauty merge, and magnificent mansions abound. Among these are the Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, dating from 1688; Lyndhurst, on the Hudson side of Tarrytown, which with its turrets and towers is a graceful Gothic revival building surrounded by magnificently landscaped grounds; or the Vanderbilt mansions which share Hyde Park with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt home. For information on hotels contact the Hudson River Valley Association, Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie.

The Catskills are perhaps the most famous holiday retreat for New Yorkers, with 2,000 square miles of mountains, hiking and bicycle trails, golf courses, swimming pools, country stores and camp sites.

Then there is Adirondack Park, over six million acres, with more than a third composed of unspoiled wilderness. This site of the 1980 winter Olympics offers summer hiking, swimming and spectacular foliage. It is a three and a half hour drive from Manhattan, with accommodation available in rustic lodges near the many campsites in the park and mountains.

The Finger Lakes are perhaps most noted as the home of Niagara Falls, one of the biggest tourist attractions in the United States. The view of the falls is spectacular, with rolling waters that plunge 180ft. The lakes are located in 70 acres of park and there are many motels, hotel and camp sites. Contact the Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau.

A two-and-a-half-hour bus ride will get you to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Buses leave from the Port Authority building between 40th and 41st Streets on Eighth Avenue in New York (cost $16).

It has the east coast's newest, and indeed only, gambling resort. Gambling was legalized there in 1976 and three large, modern casinos offer a full range of gambling and entertainment delights. The area also abounds in excellent beaches including Wildwood, with six amusement piers, and Cape May, still preserving Victorian-period architecture, including more than 500 buildings with decorated mouldings. The Mainstay Inn, built in 1872, still has its original furnishings and is only one block from the ocean.

For most Americans, Boston is the most English city in the United States. The accent is closer to English with its broad vowel sounds (listen to Senator Kennedy say "ask" with a broad A). Beacon Hill has the eighteenth-century elegance of Chelsea. Harvard is the most famous university in the United States, with the tranquillity of Oxford or Cambridge.

Recently the civilized image has eroded. Boston has become better-known for its racial tension over the school busing issue, but it still holds its reputation as the intellectual heart of America, the city of Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of John Kenneth Galbraith, and a long liberal tradition.

From Logan airport visitors can take a shuttle bus to the subway line which connects with all points at Government Centre. Buses leave every 10 minutes. Boston is one of the most beautiful American cities, and again is best seen on foot. Every visitor should take the Freedom Trail, a three-hour walk with exhibits from the fight for independence.

Go to the Quincy Market in the centre of Boston, where all the old warehouses have been refurbished. Vendors sell food, and there are outdoor cafés where you can sit and enjoy the crowds. The New England aquarium, with one of the world's largest collections of sharks, is near by. The Hancock Tower in Copley Plaza is one of the finest modern buildings in the United States and was designed by I. M. Pei, America's most famous architect. Encased in reflecting glass, its only fault is that the glass occasionally drops out, cascading on to the street hundreds of feet below.

One of the city's finest hotels is the Copley Plaza, with a bar that features well-known jazz musicians. Double rooms range from $80 to $100. The Boston Park Plaza, centrally located on Arlington Street, has more than 800 rooms with rates from $65 to $80.

On Sundays take in Dunfey's Park House, within walking distance of the Freedom Trail. For fresh seafood there is Anthony's Pier Four, located on the harbour, with a waterfront deck where you can have drinks and enjoy large portions of seafood.

Rhode Island is the smallest state in New England and has Newport, the boating centre, on its Atlantic coast. The state was the playground for America's wealthiest class in the late nineteenth century, and its huge mansions are now open to the public for tours. Historic Newport is easily viewed by foot: the Newport harbour acts as host to the America's Cup trials, and is the docking port for many yachting events. For information on hotels and sightseeing in Newport contact Newport Chamber of Commerce, 10 America's Cup Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island.

Vermont is best known for its autumn foliage and for downhill and cross-country skiing. Springtime is the period for sugaring-off, when the sap is tapped from maple trees and boiled down to make maple syrup. There are more than 40 cross-country and downhill skiing resorts, including the well-known resort of Stowe. Stowe has two mountains with trails, which are accessible by car, train or aircraft from New York. Stowe has accommodation from $17 to $200 a night. Call the Stowe Area Association for further information.

Therese Stanton



Slow-moving 'nation' retains own identity

continued from page V

Orleans's version. Montgomery is the site of the first White House of the Confederacy, which now houses relics of the Civil War and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

The South once had a distinctive culinary tradition but it is now largely disappearing. Grits, something like semolina, still appears on every breakfast table and, after the initial shock, is quite palatable with grilled bacon.

The other remaining staple Southern dish is catfish and hush puppies, the latter a spiced, deep-fried dough. Buy it outside a tourist area and it will cost you $3. Most Southern restaurants offer a predictable variety of steak, basic French dishes, and seafood, bringing the price of an average meal with wine to about $25 for two in a better-class establishment. Mexican restaurants are becoming more popular.

Memphis boasts two splendid ribs and beer restaurants, Blues Alley, where a 79-year-old former burlesque singer, Ma Rainey, and an exceptional jazz band entertain nightly, and Charley Vergos's Rendezvous. Expect to pay about $8 a head with beer.

New Orleans is the home of creole, a cross between French and Caribbean cuisine. Stock dishes include red beans and rice, and gumbo, a kind of seafood stew. Several bars offer an oyster happy hour when the king of molluscs can be downed for 10 cents a time, and with Guinness.

Missouri during the summer is like a good English summer, with plenty of sun and temperatures into the 70s. Temperatures rise as one moves farther south. New Orleans, situated as it is on the Gulf of Mexico, can become uncomfortably humid and reach the 90s. Nights everywhere are cooler, low 60s in the south, 70s in the north, and enlivened by the insect choruses one has come to expect of the South.

A motoring holiday would take, at the minimum, two weeks. The cost of a medium-sized saloon for that period would start at about $380. Never hire a car at an American airport. Rates can be up to 25 per cent higher than the same firm will charge for the same car a mile or so away at their town office.

One disadvantage of travelling by hire car is that the Americans, in the South at least, have yet to introduce a satisfactory form of one-way car hire. Oneway hire is available from the larger companies such as Avis but only at a ridiculous surcharge. Most visitors will choose to take a circular route through the South, beginning and ending at their place of entry.

From Atlanta, for instance, a natural circular route would be south through Alabama to New Orleans, then north to Memphis and east through Nashville, Knoxville and the Great Smoky Mountains, back to Atlanta, a total of about 1,400 miles, most of it on interstate.

From St Louis, a two-week motoring holiday might take in southern Missouri and the Ozarks, northern Arkansas, Memphis, Nashville, the Smokies, returning through Kentucky.

Those who do not wish to drive can make use of an extensive and fast Greyhound bus system and domestic airline network. Both offer special tickets for tourists which offer unlimited travel for up to a month. Prices vary, in the case of airlines, almost monthly. The most extensive domestic air network in the South is run by Delta, which has a number of bargain tickets for British visitors. They are, unfortunately, restricted to those entering America by Delta into Atlanta. Other companies do not have such restrictions but have a less comprehensive service in the South. The only way of sorting out this tangle is probably by contacting the offices of the individual airlines personally.

Hotel prices vary wildly according to location. Those travelling on a tight budget should head for the out-of-town motel where rooms can be had for as little as $12 a night for a double room. Advance booking is not usually necessary, simply follow the directions signposted at regular intervals on the highway.

The middle range of accommodation is catered for by the large hotel chains such as Holiday Inn, Sheraton, and Best Western with properties spreading across the whole of the South. There is little to differentiate between them.

Prices start at about $30 a night for a double room in rural locations rising to more than $70 in cities. The most expensive hotel rooms in the South are in New Orleans where a double in a decent hotel on the French Quarter will cost at least $80 a night. Chateau Le Moyne, an exceptionally good hotel, run by Holiday Inn on the edge of the Quarter, offers first-class accommodation for about this price.

In New Orleans, Memphis, Atlanta, and St Louis, it is essential to book rooms in advance if you wish to stay with one of the large chains. All these cities are busy convention centres and while rooms are probably available most of the time, there are bound to be travellers who choose to visit them during some get-together and find there is not a spare bed in town.

Luxury hotels are really available only in the major cities and start at about $100 a night. Many are now owned by the large chains and the standard of accommodation is usually as high as will be found in most parts of the world. One local chain worth considering in the St Louis area is Breckenridge where the more expensive rooms, in the $70 a night category, are exceptionally comfortable.

Package holidays to New Orleans are coming on to the market and will increase in number with British Airways' new route in the spring. You will probably want to travel out of the city rather than spend a whole two weeks there, however, so budget accordingly.

David Hewson



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